

FROM the 'CIVILISATION' (?)
THAT'S TRYING TO bring you the
IIIrd! WORLD WAR WE BRING YOU a
(while there's still time)

POISONBEN

VOL. 6 No. 4 GIPPLE DIP HASTINGS ANARCHIST GROUP

1/2/80

VICAR RAVES

NIK TURNER GIG - FALAISE HALL

About 300 people turned up at the Falaise Hall for a splendid evenings entertainment. Excellent organization ensured that everything went without a hitch. For only £1.50 there were three bands plus cartoons and films.

First on were the GOOD MISSIONARIES, a band worthy of far better than the warm-up spot. Their music is hard to classify, sometimes New Wave, sometimes with a definite Jazz feel but always interesting. Visually they lacked the flair that probably only comes with confidence but with more public exposure they should achieve considerable success. One thing is certain, they make you think and that has got to be a good thing.

The second band were called CRACKED MIRROR and as they modelled themselves on Status Quo I managed to avoid most of their set. Those who like that sort of thing said they were pretty good.

Last, and by no means least, came Nik Turner's INNER CITY UNIT. A worthy top of the bill at almost any level. They play rock as loudly and aggressively as the very best. Visually they are splendid, and what a relief to have Nik get all the bores up off their arses and bopping. Great Stuff!

All this amazing entertainment was brought to you by the legendary old happy Clive Richardson. Well done Clive! Flushed with the success of the evening there were talks of gigs to come. I heard two names mentioned - Edgar Broughton and Roy Harper. If this goes on, rumours about the imminent death of Hastings will have to be denied

THE GROCER IS COMING

In the early days of the last decade a strange figure rose to political prominence. His name was Ted Heath. He was an odd man, whose fame owed nothing to either brains or beauty. His political acumen was negligible and his claims to fame rested on his interest in choirboys and sailors, also the odd fact that he possessed more teeth than other mortals. Nothing very peculiar so far, you may think, but here is where we find the first link in a conspiracy that may change the course of Western Civilisation. His nickname was THE ... GROCER.

We now have in power a figure so malign, so sinister that many people have wondered if even the British electorate, famed though they may be for their bovine stupidity, would have chosen her of their own free wills. This unpleasant creature, named Thatcher - known as the mad axe-woman through her desire to destroy the British way of life - is the daughter of a GROCER.

Here is where the plot thickens and we in Hastings find ourselves in the forefront of the battle as we find ourselves manipulated by a small but sinister figure, the notorious Bernie Spray. Everyone agrees that, under no normal circumstances, would a man of this calibre ever hope to ride to the heights of street cleaner. Yet here he is, mayor of our town, (or as he is known throughout the South-East - head of the Hastings mafia). The rise to fame of this man, so inconsequential, appears baffling until we grasp the last and most hideous fact of all. Bernard Spray is a GROCER.

What, may you ask, can we achieve against this corrupt power elite? Once in a century comes a man who will fight against all the odds that mankind may once be free. That man is me. When battle is joined in the May elections, I will risk all and stand against him. Should I, having ventured thus, lose and never be heard of again, remember that I did it that men might once more be free and walk tall, safe forever from the menace of....THE GROCERS.

....The Vicar.

**

Another reminder that Steve Kuepper's increasingly new pamphlet of poems is still available from Solstice and Unnormality price 25p. Free schoolgirl with every copy, Nobel Prize optional.

More Nik Turner

Some words from Nik Turner who said after the gig last Saturday that he'd like to thank everyone very much for coming and for making such good vibes and he hopes that everyone enjoyed it as much as he and the band did.

Nik added that, should enough people be interested in another gig, he'd love to play here again, so go and chat Clive into booking them again.

Clive would also like to thank everyone very much for making the gig such a success, and would be interested in any feedback about it, either positive or negative about what you thought.

Fat pig councillor, Sanctamonius smiles,
He takes the money - You take the lies.
Summer of bondage-knifans is coming.
The innocents are all slaughtered
Trip out - LABOTOMY JETQUIST.

For twenty five-years I've been swallowin' thdr own tastes?

-wing the agony of bigotry from my much loved lifelong friends whom I've learned to go on loving even though they dismiss other cultures as 'rubbish!', Other generat-ions pleasures as 'rubbish!', Others religions as 'stupid', others politics as 'Lunacy'! I grew into an anarchist because I thought it was these very dismissals of other peoples small ideas, likes and dislikes that lead to the power groups in politics which supress human rights and choices. I want to see the existing Status Quo altered away from the bigotries which ultimately cause nationalism leading to oppression and wars.

What an oasis then to find others who write as though they too find bigotry a bane. During the last pleasant year I have been taught to look at my own bigotries about family life, maybe claustrophobic relationships between parents and children, about the age of consent, infact lots of things I've always seen as a protection within society, but could easily be mere bigotry.

But it was a cold chill of suspicion that threaded into my enjoyment of the three groups at Saturdays gig when the very people who stimulated my look at bias, dismissed my likes as 'rubbish, crap etc.' What a familiar phrase!! Now wouldn't that be 'not my scene' or 'I don't like it'. be a better way of phrasing your opinions? Or maybe after all you cling to your bigotries to make yourselves a comfy group in the same way as I may mine. Am I to go on suspecting that our own anarchist collective could be accused of being just another bunch of bigots who want freedom just for

Nom Deplume

PS: Clive! Our family enjoyed the whole of Saturdays gig - even the Good Missionaries! Great evening!

CARLISLE GIG - NEWSFLASH!

The 2nd February gig at the Carlisle will be featuring Dubious Connection, existing Status Quo altered away from the and Delta Wing, contrary to previous who now WILL be appearing, although Dubious Connection are now official support

brnd - 7.45 - 12.00 admission 80p. Tickets are available from Unnormality.

"So thou sayest"
And the hypocrites bow their heads
In shame,
Oblivious to the decay.
The rotting altar cloths,
The crumbling masonry,
World without end,
Decay without decadence,
Death without release.

The stagnant minds,
Whited sepulchres,
Programmed association:
Pain and piety,
God and Nation,
Cash-flow and crucifixion,

(Steve Kuepper)
'Summer of Hatred + 13'

WHAT TO DO WHEN THATCHER DROPS BOMBS ON YOU

Did you know that the Womens Voluntary Services (!) hand out literature telling us what to do in case of nuclear warfare affecting YOUR quiet homestead? Strange, but true, they give talks in schools etc. telling us what to do in order to heighten our chances of survival - they're called 'one-in-five' lectures (that's the proportion of the population who are meant to have received them). This seems a good idea, and leaflets are handed out although these seem to include the assumption that the public will be informed more than once of the imminent danger - I would suggest that those who are meant to be warning us will be tucked safely away in their private bunkers. Even in the USA, those most likely to cause nuclear war, there are public fallout shelters for almost all the population. Britain has protective bunkers under the Ministry of Defence and other 'key' organizations fundamental to the British way of killing people. The WS, however, is a government institution, and their leaflets are printed by HMSO. Perhaps Thater intends taking back the Empire after all.....

The council who have spent £2,000,000 on the Summerfields Sports Centre, seem to be in a hurry to regain the money spent. They intend to charge the ordinary 'nuclear' family (2 adults, 2 kids) an amazing £2.26p to swim, and as much as £4.00 for an hour of badminton! Good Luck Council!

SPICE POOLER (incorporating the Oddvertz.))

It was just another day in Unnormalititty. Rekordzzz. The unbelievably attractive, black leather-clad salesperson leaned back in her chair with a sigh and a frown as she thought of the terrible secret she held of that dreadful...THING in the back of the shop. Suddenly she heard a crash and the dashing young Captain Steve McArmyjacket leaped into the shop with all the grace of a ballet dancer and the butchness of an aardvark wrestler, to the great admiration of all those present. "Where's Bruce?" he asked in his manly baritone. A simple enough question, indeed, but it struck fear into the simple heart of the salesperson, as she thought of the hidden implications.... "Bruce is..." she leaned hesitantly towards the dashing young urban gorilla and whispered the terrible secret into his aural orifice (ear, you nurd). A horrified expression crossed the Captain's handsome features. He was stunned. "No... surely not..." "Yes," replied the irresistible leather-clad person. "I've warned him time and time again that he's only destroying himself with his indulgence. Just think, that young man- or what's left of him- ruined, just because of... I can't even bear to think of it..."

Grim-faced, the young captain stepped into the back of the shop to see for himself if all this was true. "My God!" he exclaimed. "Is this a man or a monster?!!!" "I know," quoth the delightful Melita (I'm free most weekday evenings). "I think this is a lesson for us all. This man is living proof of the terrible danger posed to this nation's youth by... listening to Grateful Dead records..."

ADVERT: Bowel irregularities??? Your problems will be solved when you buy the Gooood Missionaries snigle from Unnormality, C.K.?

POEMS FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT by the
Caveperzon

via Solstice bookshop, 127 Bohemia Road, or
Unnormality Records, 90b High Street,
HASTINGS, so that a date can be arranged to
see the vehicle.

Keep Alive!

Streets of rotting mud,
Quagmires richly decorated
With stoney images
Of unavoidable tasks.

A Caveman

Scund'n'Lights

A casket of attrition,
The judge sinks his teeth
Into the hollow flesh
Of sleepy bodies
Wrapped thinly in lace.
Trying to keep warm.

A castle stands in the corner
Where shadows float
Over cold lights
That sweep the horizons of
Wasted time.

Meanwhile the cry of seagulls heard
On distant shores die.
Far away from the human battle
That thunders in the city of the dead
And echoes across painted moors
Splashed with blood.

Above, in the sky, a vulture sings
A tune of new music,
To the sound of lightning
Striking hard rock,
In the middle of the summer heatwave
That's gone but not forgotten.

The twentieth century is heard no more
It's been destroyed by the
Nuclear fission explosion
That would bring happiness
To the human race.

Silent people wonder
In amazement at the scene.
Displayed around them,
Shown on a silver screen,
They do not live,
As they are used to being fed
By a machine.
A spectacle of thair lives
As they should be.

The Caveman

Freedom escapes hoping to return
Knowing it has unfortunately lost
It's battle for sanity in an
Insane world - Amen!

A new(ish) Anarchist orientated paper
has appeared, it is called 'Extra' and
appears to be well worth the 30p cover
price with bits about the S.A.S., Fascism,
Conservative axe-murders and the S.W.P.
I would recommend it to (almost) anyone
left alive in 1980. It is, of course,
available from Solstice and Unnormality, the
only known distributors in Hastings!

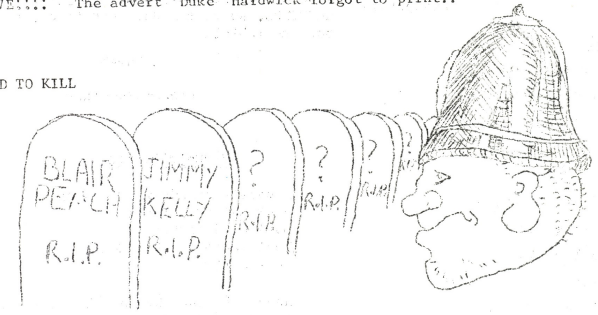
THE WEEKS GOOD CAUSE

Transport is an essential feature of
the 20th Century. A member of Hastings
Anarchist Group is looking out for some
kind of transport - preferably a van such
as a transit or anything of that size. It
should be in relatively good condition (ie.
brakes, engine etc. all functioning) it
shouldn't cost more than £200 or less than
£150. Anyone who has such a vehicle and
wishes to sell it - please contact Chris

Local fanzine 'out of print' (No. 2) is
currently available from Unnormality +
Solstice, including bits about The Damned,
Charlie'n'Criminals, Sid, Swell Maps,
Banshees and The Specials to name a few,
another one is coming in a few weeks.

EXCLUSIVE!!!! The advert 'Duke' Hardwick forgot to print!!

LICENSED TO KILL



Looking for a job that's full of action?

Then why not join Britain's Police Force. You'll probably start with routine, but nonetheless valuable, work such as beating suspects within an inch of their lives (and sometimes beyond), and keeping Blacks and Gays off the streets.

Promising you thugs will quickly get the chance to join the SPGs. There you can make your most violent dreams come true - without having to worry about trivial things like the law. And remember, a lot of officers are now trained to shoot people with a wide variety of weapons.

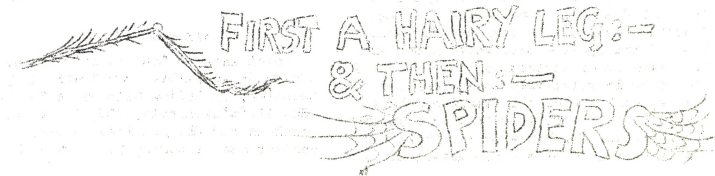
Pay? As well as generous basic pay, most officers will find plenty of opportunity for earning extras, from friendly bookies, porn-dealers and dope-peddlers. Then there are the perks: how would you like to burst into houses at dawn, or strip-search members of the opposite sex.

Graduates will, of course, go straight into our surveillance section, which builds up files on people's private lives and political activities. After all, our motto is 'KNOW YOUR ENEMIES'. The more potential troublemakers we can frame now, the easier our job will be later.

So why not inform on your fellow students now, and join us when you graduate! Keep Britain fit for Fascists!!!!

Please send me your prospectus - 1984
Name
Address
.....
* (Offer not open to thinking people) *

NB. All proceeds from this advertisement will go to Hypocrites Anonymous.



Your MP Kenny Warren seems to fear the idea of televising parliamentary debates. I would suggest this has something to do with the fact that he feels a lack of street-credibility and never got to drama school. The idea is obviously very frightening to those who control us, there is a high risk that large numbers of people will recognize these animals as the fools and fascists that they are. The highly publicized Radio broadcasts from the House have been reduced until almost all that's left is 'Today in Parliament' somewhere about midnight on Radio Four which airs very short extracts from speeches made. It was quietly noted by some MPs that the 'quality of debate' improved drastically upon the introduction of radio broadcasts. Needless to say, the 99% that is edited is either bollocks or things which MPs will find 'embarrassing'. And the true music of the uncaring and unconcerned have thought that the sound quality could will always end up on the cutting-room floor.

Steve K

Nasty Ways of Promoting Things...

We have waited long for the release of the Penetration tapes from their last gig in Newcastle before their lamentable split. We were assured by the music press that these tapes would be released - and so they have been. The mobile concerned was 'Virgin Records', the label to which the band were signed (remember the folks who gave you Sid, Metal Boxes, Luminous Vinyl and Mike Oldfield? The ultimate

gimmick-masters). Virgin have a well deserved reputation of sick exploitation. Eventually an album appeared, one side being made up of excerpts from two Penetration gigs - both at Newcastle - and the other being made up of unreleased demos.

Curious? The sleeve looks like a very amateur job and made to make us come to only one conclusion, that the record is, in fact, a BOOTLEG, which most real fans will buy on sight, glad to have stumbled across this difficult-to-obtain slice of vinyl. The copyright is attributed to something called Clifdayn Ltd. (Who the fuck are Clifdayn Ltd.?) In fact all this material is owned by Virgin, and the album is readily obtainable in Virgin stores around the country. The actual content of the album????? The standard of the music is near abysmal - I would have been better on the live sequences.

Due to the inadequacy of the album, one might have been expecting to see it somewhere in the Mid-Price range. Wrong again: the album will cost you more than a river. Perhaps this is the ultimate rip-off. The Bootleg that never was?

R. Branson

"The hymn is number 666, during which a collection will be taken. I trust that you will give generously as the Pope wishes to expand his Middle East investments."

Father McKenzie

C.A.A.T. ACTIVITIES

The following is a reprint of a letter that has gone out to those known to be interested. If YOU are interested, please contact Alan Twine, 57 St. Helens Rd, HASTINGS (in writing).

Dear Friend,

After our successful Street Theatre demonstration last September, there was a general agreement that we would benefit from some training in street campaigning.

As you can see from the enclosed leaflet (see Unnormality Notice Board), we have there fore arranged a special WORKSHOP on this theme for SATURDAY, 23rd February 1980 from 11.30am to 4.00pm at the Friends Meeting House, South Terrace, HASTINGS. During the afternoon we will also be discussing our plans for 1980; with the new slide/tape show especially in mind.

OUR LEADER is JAMES MCCARTHY who has a lot of experience in practical campaigning and is a member of the Bradford peace-group. He was involved in the Workcamp and Week of CAAT demonstrations and meetings at the Royal Naval Equipment Exhibition at Portsmouth last September.

We very much hope you will be able to come - if not for the whole day, then for one of the sessions. Lunch will be at 1.00pm when there will be soup, rolls, cheese, tea and coffee available - or you may bring your own food if you wish. The afternoon will start at 1.45pm.

Hoping to see you there

Yours sincerely

Alan Twine

CAVECOMMUNIQUE

Is anyone interested in starting a newscutting information centre? Wherein could be kept newscuttings for public reference with an index system. Seems like a good idea. Anyone interested should contact Caveman via Solstice.

INEVITABLE ADVERTS

Should you muster up courage to go beyond the boundries of human expectation for the fourth time this week, and brave the serpent-temptations of the perfumed gardens of Bohemia Road Nick, you risk stumbling upon the forgotten Bookshop SOLSTICE, known to us only through obscure legends of bygone ages.

Seekers of vinyl, however, should stick to more temperate regions, and find their way to UNNORMALITY and partake of the delights to be found therein. Both victims of PP Promotion are currently in possession of small numbers of 'EXTRA', the interesting paper - get yours and come to your own conclusions (hahaha!!!)

Emil has finally got lost in space but we hope to hear from him again soon.

REMEMBER

A couple of memorable quotes relating to the Southall - and the trials still haven't finished!

"As I was not present at Southall, I have no evidence which would lead me to press for such an examination."

Bryant Godmine Irvine MP (Rye and Bexhill) 'Silly Party' when questioned about the need for examinations of SPG behaviour.

"If you keep off the streets of London and behave yourself, you won't have the SPG to worry about!"

Commander McNee

POISON PEN.

19th Feb
1982

FREE
HASTINGS
ANARCHIST
WEEKLY.



I SAY, I SAY, I SAY- WHAT ARE THOSE DREADFUL
PEOPLE UP TO THIS WEEK?

MMMM.... looks like
scandalous revelations
about the Hermitage....
The latest Claimants
Union bulletin....
More of your rights....
Steve lets rip about the
so-called 'welfare state'...
Can't see anything about
Jack Cook though....
Hey- d'you think we're
famous now? Gosh- a
cover girl and
I never washed
my hair...



Youch! I spread some camembert on a roll with the same knife I use for the Cow gum. I didn't notice the difference tho'.....still, if I die halfway through this, you'll know why..... And so we press on with more of your rights and the police.....

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Police powers to enter & search your home:

Apparently the law here is pretty cloudy and confused. As the police are much of a law unto themselves, they can get away with quite a lot here. Each of the following cases can take place with or without a warrant, depending on the circumstances.

The police have no general power to enter your home or other private place without your consent, but if you refuse, they can get a search warrant, or else a search authority from a senior officer can also do the trick. The latter of these warrants can be issued if the occupier of the premises has been convicted in the past five years for handling stolen goods or any other imprisonable offence, or else if someone who falls into this category has occupied the place within the last twelve months.

This makes things pretty damn easy to search a place if someone with a criminal record is/has been living somewhere. The police do not need any reasonable suspicion that stolen goods are on the premises in order to search.

This warrant can also be issued if it is believed that there are explosives on your property which are about to cause immediate damage or injure people; or if it is believed that an offence against the Official Secrets Act has been/is about to be committed; or if police are looking for evidence relating to terrorism where "immediate action is necessary in the interests of the state". So once again, it allows the police to make excuses just to enter your home on a pretext. Naughty, eh?

And would you believe that there are other instances when neither a search warrant nor a search authority is necessary for the police to enter your home? They can do this if they reasonably suspect that someone on the premises has committed/is committing/ is about to commit an arrestable offence. These offences include theft, most violent crimes, taking and driving away a motor vehicle, unlawful possession of drugs and some firearms offences. The police can also search the premises in this instance.

The police can also enter without any of the aforementioned authorities if they have a warrant for the arrest of someone on the premises or in order to prevent or stop a likely breach of the peace or stop an affray. They can also enter to stop someone from being seriously injured, but very seldom intervene in private disputes, e.g. to protect a battered wife, or tenant from a raving landlord who is evicting them unlawfully. In this case the police have no power to search the place.

If the police have a legal right of entry as outlined in the above cases, they can force their way in if you refuse to let them enter. Otherwise they have no right to enter or to demand to stay if you don't want them to. If a policeman does enter unlawfully or refuses to go when you ask him, he is trespassing, and you can take action for damages in a civil court against him. I'd be interested to hear how many times a civilian has won such a case, though.....

It's pretty dodgy to try to get a pig out by using force. Theoretically you are entitled to use a bit of weight to get a trespasser out your property, but we all know how easy it is to be done for assaulting a policeman, so it's much better to make a note of his name and number, find some witnesses and then make either a formal complaint or take action for damages against him.

Search warrants:

A search warrant is usually issued by a magistrate, and in order to obtain one, a police officer has to state on oath that he has reasonable grounds for wanting it. Although magistrates are supposed to examine the evidence in order to decide whether to grant the warrant or not, many are issued in haste without proper examination of the evidence. But once a warrant has been granted, even if it is based on false information, you cannot challenge it, so tough titty.

The police can get warrants for a wide range of things: stolen goods, dangerous drugs, firearms, offences against the state, sexual offences and obscene publications etc ad infinitum and so on

Once they have a warrant, the police can enter the premises named. They must announce who they are and ask to be allowed in, then force their way in if this is refused. They can search any part of the premises, seize and take away any articles described in the warrant or, in some cases, take away whatever they fancy, which they would claim is evidence that the occupier has been involved in some other offence. They should not take anything just because they believe that anyone other than the occupier is involved in an offence other than the one for which the warrant was issued (complicated, isn't it?).

Basically, all this gives the police an excuse to have a look for evidence of other offences, which they can use in a subsequent trial, even if they have taken it unlawfully.

If the police take anything away from your premises and you are later charged, the property will normally be kept until the trial, when the court will decide what to do with it. In the case of something like an obscenity trial, the court has the power to order the property to be destroyed if you are convicted. If you are acquitted, you can have your things back, but it's best to ask the judge to order the police to give them back, just to make sure you really do get them back. You may have to provide evidence that the property is actually yours.

If the police officer in charge of your case won't return anything you should get back, then you or your solicitor should write formally to the chief constable for the area, describing the articles and asking for their immediate return.

Some search warrants also allow the police to search people on the premises and to arrest anyone named in the warrant or anyone found in possession of the things they're after. Most warrants expire after they have been used once, so police cannot return with the same one later on. However, some are valid for more than one occasion. It's not that hard for the police to obtain another warrant if they don't find what they're after though.

If the police knock on your door and claim to have a warrant, always ask to see it. You can ask to have it shown to you through a window, so you needn't allow them a look in the door. They only have to show you it once, so examine it carefully. It must state the reason they want to search your place and the Act under which it has been issued. Look also for any time limits and the property they are after.

Check also the address to make sure they have the right one. You can refuse entry if the premises is not correctly named, e.g. if it specifies just a block of flats without naming one in particular. You can also refuse entry to adjoining premises, e.g., a flat over a shop, if only the shop is named. If the police force entry anyway and the search is unsuccessful, you may have grounds for legal action later. Again, I'd be very interested to know how many such actions against the police are successful.

Ask to see the warrant card of the police officer in charge to make sure they are genuine pigs, and also to identify the officer if you need to make a complaint if the search is unlawful. If you are alone, try to contact a lawyer or find a witness to the search. If they won't let you make a phone call, try to make a note of the things they take, but of course this will be tricky if they're all in different rooms and there's only one of you.....

....melita..... (with big lumps of help from the NCCL Handbook.....)

Next week:- more about search warrants; arrest etc

(I have to tell you what's coming up or else I'll forget.....lots of dots this week)

And Steve has been casting a critical eye
on the welfare state.....

WHOSE WELFARE?

We have now had forty years of the 'Welfare State'-- created by reformist politicians like Beveridge and Bevan, it was hailed by the traditional left and the unions as being the foundation stone of social justice, when in fact it was an open acknowledgement of the Labour party's inability to implement even its own limited vision of socialism. It was designed to make capitalism bearable even to those at the bottom of the pile. The working class, who produce all the wealth of society, were to be guaranteed the bare minimum necessary to sustain life even when sick or unemployed or old.

Isn't it nice of the state to give back some of what it steals to those it steals it from? Provided they come cap in hand, don't make a fuss and fill in all the correct forms, of course.

The state produces nothing; it is parasitical on society. It gets its power and resources from you and me: from our taxes, which amount to being so much free labour we do for the state each week.

The function of the state is to maintain capitalism and the class nature of society. It is not a coincidence that the upper echelons of all state institutions (Parliament, civil service, army, police) are filled with people from ruling class backgrounds; they are simply defending their privileges.

The state defends the capitalist system in many different ways. Briefly, to give just two:

Through the law which is used to maintain property relations-- so that if a worker removes the product of his/her labour from a factory s/he can be kidnapped and locked up in prison by the police-- never mind the fact that s/he is struggling to live on a pittance while the owners and managers of that factory drive about in Rovers and take their holidays in the Bahamas.

The law is also used to harass dissident minorities-- hippies, punks, rastas, anarchists etc etc. A good example of this is the law against cannabis which is totally unjust and has no base in logic whatsoever.

Through education which is designed to instil such values as obedience to authority and competition for material rewards. Kids are made to wear uniforms and to respect people (teachers), not because they have earned their respect, but simply because they are in positions of authority-- 'do what I say because I say so'.

And the 'Welfare State' also serves the interests of capitalism. People who are hungry tend to be angry people, people who might lose respect for the law, people who might just take what they need without asking. So the state uses some of the money it has left after it has paid for its nuclear bombs and suchlike important things to feed people.

Of course, it is made absolutely clear to claimants that they really are at the bottom of the heap-- kept waiting for hours in dreary surroundings, interrogated by staff as though you are some sort of criminal, not paid on time, not paid at all and even if you do get what you are 'entitled' to, it's not enough.

Yes sirees if you aren't a good little wage slave with a nice job and a nice boss then you had better believe that in the eyes of queen and country and all right-thinking people you are little more than a lump of shit, and if you are 'lucky' enough to be employed in some mind-retting exploitative job, you had better be a good worker and do as you're told, coz it's ten times worse on the dole.

So if you have to visit Heron House don't be conned into thinking that you are being done some sort of favour.

The present system is incapable of providing 'welfare'-- all it can provide is crumbs from the table. The true wellbeing of society will come when we abolish the state and the money economy and build a free, classless society based on direct democracy and the principle "from each according to their ability, to each according to their needs".

Our demands are moderate; all we want is the world.

Steve.

p.s. Yes, I do know who said that.

The latest Claimants Union leaflet is reprinted on the following page.....

Watching the Welfare State go down the tubes:

Some indication of the current depths of welfare benefit pauperism is given in figures just released via a written parliamentary answer, showing that your dolo has dropped to a new thirty-year low compared with average earnings.

The S.B. concede these statistics are correct but refuse to make them official. "The Times" of 2nd February reported that a single person's unemployment benefit is now hovering around 17% of the average male manual worker's wages.

Newcastle Welfare Rights Society warn that the new Tory Supplementary Benefits system has achieved: quote-- "a new form of complexity possibly even more formidable than before". They slag S.B. officers for an alarming and "widespread lack of familiarity with the new regulations" and speak of continual examples of claimants being given verbal advice bearing no relation to the regulations.

Dinosaurs at Heron House:

Welfare provision in Hastings is being wound down daily, mainly because of the deepening Tory-inspired economic crisis, vast new numbers of unemployed and totally inadequate DHSS staff to cope.

Contacting DHSS by 'phone is now a major achievement meriting a Queen's Award for Industry.

Visiting officers appear to be a disappearing species that nobody can put a name to-- appointments are in danger of receding into a thing of the past and emergency appointments for urgent need are so behind that rigor mortis might already have set in.

Bradford DHSS harassment leads man to O.D.:

A Bradford coroner recently called for an inquiry into allegations that a common law husband had been so persecuted by a social security official that he overdosed with aspirin. The coroner, recording a suicide verdict, stated that the dead man had been frustrated by the difficulties he was having with the DHSS.

Industrial National Service:

From September 1983 the new Tebbit (on yer bike) Youth Training Scheme hits the road....Any 16-year-old school leaver who refuses to enter this scheme will have all his/her supplementary benefit withdrawn. On entering this form of industrial conscription, the new recruit collects a suggested 'national service' sum of £15 a week allowance. This will at a stroke effectively raise the school leaving age by twelve months. Tory ministers, appreciating the not yet totalitarian state cannot force young people to take up this 'foundation training', nevertheless consider loss of all benefit a strong incentive.

Encouraged to increase job prospects? Not likely.....:

New measures are being unearthed to halt the payment of welfare benefit if the unemployed continue with voluntary part-time education in an attempt to increase near zero job prospects. Tyneside Claimants Union, in a strongly critical comment suggest: quote-- "The ruling means that the DHSS are quite happy to pay out money if a young person stands around and plays billiards or hangs around the bingo hall but they're going to cut the money off if he tries to improve his job outlook."

That's the way the money goes:

Don't forget that, as our last bulletin showed, in the last financial year 5,460 man years were spent on specialist anti-fraud investigation at an estimated cost of \$54 million. The DHSS do not employ one single specialist staff to help promote take-up of benefit.

(Cont'd over.....)

Tips for claimant punters:

As you know, getting your correct benefit is like taking part in a lottery. So here are some hints to increase your chances.

Demand an assessment form AI24. The DHSS must provide it on request. It gives a detailed breakdown of your calculated entitlement to check.

Never enter Heron House alone. This is an old chestnut but as true now as ever. Bring a friend or relative along for psychological support and to act as witness to your treatment.

If the DHSS are taking a long time deciding benefit levels or entitlement or are just generally treating you shabbily, then contact their Regional Office to make a formal complaint. Address your complaint to DHSS Regional Office, 29-37 Brighton Road, Sutton, Surrey, or phone 01-642 6022. We think this might speed things up and give the local office a rocket.

Never accept a decision against you without appealing. This brings an automatic and senior review of your case and often overturns 'shrug of the shoulder' decisions without it even reaching the Appeal Tribunal. And if you turn up you can win at appeals.

There are still limited clothing and footwear grants, particularly if if one of your family is ill or disabled and has rapidly lost or gained weight. If you lose an item of clothing the DHSS can provide a replacement grant and if your shoes develop a leak, the DHSS Commissioners stated recently that "shoes that let in the water present an obvious risk to health." If so, claim under Regulation 30 regarding possible serious damage or serious risk to health and safety. If they refuse, appeal.

Don't forget the last few months have been designated by DHSS as a period of exceptionally severe weather, allowing SE claimants and pensioners to claim an additional fuel grant. Ask Heron House for their special extra fuel grant form. This covers heating by gas and electric, paraffin and solid fuel etc.

Remember that a voluntary code of practice protects pensioners, young children, the sick and the disabled from winter disconnections. Ask about the Fuel Direct Scheme if in fuel debt trouble.

Remember that Hastings now has a team of specialist welfare rights workers fronted by those old stalwarts Mike Bloxham and Mike Matthews. If you have complicated problems use their now 'professional' advice at the Unemployed and Claimants Advice Centre, Upper Central Hall, Middle Street in the town centre.

However, if you need our 'heavy mob' for support, contact the Hastings Claimants Union at 14, Silchester Road, St Leonards or phone Hastings 434102 afternoons Monday to Saturday.

And remember.....THE PAY MIGHT BE LOUSY BUT THE HOLIDAYS ARE WUNNERFUL.

Don't let them grind you down!

Printed & published for the Claimants Union by Hastings Free Press, 92 London Rd.

Well now, we have a distinct lack of typewriter, so I s'pose I'd better get on with the ole handscrawling.....(dots too!)

A Visit to the Hermitage

One dreary afternoon I was strolling along a Hastings street when a rather shabby Victorian tenement block caught my eye. It was called "The Hermitage". I had heard unsavoury tales about this establishment.

I decided to have a look inside. My first thought was to ask if I could rent one of the Hermitage's bedsits, but as I could find no bell or any sign of life, myself and another visitor from Horsham entered and proceeded up the stairs.

The carpet was old and threadbare, plaster was cracking off the walls in some places. Upstairs the plumbing and washing facilities were a disgrace: taps were unfixed and hanging from the walls, and, if my memory serves me right, there was no door on the room (cupboard) that one of the baths was situated in.

We then walked further up the stairs, right to the top storey.

Little light entered the building; the atmosphere was damp and stale. On the top floor we saw that the door of room 22 was ajar. I knocked. There was no reply, so I ventured in.

The room was stark and morbid; the sheets on the bed were damp - what a place to live in!

As we returned downstairs we were met by a character whose appearance was remarkably sinister....
(p.c.c.)

(From previous page)

..... to 'Speed' in the "Citizen Smith" T.V. series.

"What the Fuck are you doing?" this charming young man asked.

"Looking for a friend," we replied. (A female friend).

"Look, I've been working here four-and-a-half fucking years and there's never been no fucking women here!"

We aimed to make a route for the front door. At this point two older gents of a similar disposition to 'Speed' appeared. My arm was grabbed —

"Right — In the office!"

I pulled free and made a hasty exit. Meanwhile my friend was still being detained by the over-helpful staff of the Hermitage. I threatened to call the police if they didn't let him go. A man I presumed to be a figure of authority shouted out to me in a truly elegant style that I was trying to nick colour T.V.s. I can assure the P.P. readership that colour T.V.s are not the sort of furniture one finds in hermitage bed-sits.

They soon let my friend go. They did not seem over-eager to bring in the cops.

So here ends my tale, but I hope not the end of the battle to get this workhouse-type premises promptly closed.

Nine Cornes (The Girl with Betty Davis' Eyes)

Non-hypissed's addendum: It's long overdue that places like the Hermitage were investigated and put in order. The problem seems to be that people who run these sort of places are aware of the amount of money they can make out of DHSS by accepting anyone and offering virtually zero in return, other than a roof over one's head. (P.T.O.)

And the latest thing which is causing the good residents of this town to wave their limbs in the air in horror is the Council's new trade waste disposal scheme. A meeting was held on Monday, and one of our readers has written a report.....

RUBBISH

At 10p.m. on Monday 300 frustrated traders left a public meeting at the Warrior Hotel asking who at the meeting had proved themselves to be the most incompetent; the local government officers, the councillors or the Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting had been called to discuss recent proposals from the Environmental Health department regarding refuse collection from trade premises. The proposals are:-

1. As from April refuse left out by shops in the normal way will not be collected although the service is paid for in shop rates.
2. All shopkeepers have to go to a council building and buy yellow sacks at 40p each in multiples of 25 if they want refuse collected.

As has been seen in the local press the proposals have met a hostile reception among local traders and it was no surprise to find it was standing room only for late-comers on Monday. Traders came hoping to form a united and decisive plan of opposition only to find the Chamber of Commerce had no such clearly formulated intentions. The members of the Chamber it seems merely wanted to assess the opinions of the meeting before deciding privately on their own course of action. Have they been unable to get copies of the local press? Were they unable to speak to fellow traders prior to the meeting? The evening was doomed before it started to the series of irrelevant speeches that followed. The conclusion? The meeting voted to tell Mr Funnell, the Environmental Health Officer, that it didn't like his proposals. He knew that already.

The failure of the evening should not though be allowed to disguise the nerve of resentment the proposals have touched among traders. They are angry certainly at being made to pay twice for the same service. They are angry at being told to be at a certain place at a certain time to buy the bags. But the anger goes deeper than that. They are angry, I believe, at the situation whereby two or three faceless individuals can sit in an office and dictate the actions of two thousand plus independent businessmen and then not be answerable for those decisions. 300 traders attended the meeting and yet Mr Funnell, the man responsible for this fiasco, did not feel it necessary to be there. Democracy we are told is government by the people for the people; in Hastings it is clear it is by the council for the council and the people had better behave themselves.

There may indeed be a financial need to increase charges for trade waste, but this is not, as councillors at the meeting seemed mistakenly to believe, the main point at issue. What has made the traders angry is the nature of the scheme for increasing those charges and the way it is being introduced with no attempt whatsoever being made to consult those directly affected.

The scheme will fail anyway. It's financial logic is based on the assumption of total co-operation which may work in an office with statistics but not with real people. The scheme will fail and its failure blamed on the traders. The scheme should not be allowed to fail it should be made to fail and the blame seen to lie where it belongs - with Mr Funnell.

What the traders wanted on Monday and what they didn't get was a definite guide as to what actions to take. The following is one possibility:-

1. All traders should totally ignore the yellow bags.
2. All refuse should be left out in the normal way.
3. If refuse is not collected traders should withhold from the council that proportion of their rates demand that is specifically paid for refuse collection.

Who knows the next correspondence we get from Mr Funnell may be the news that he has changed his mind and that he'd like to apologise for any worry and confusion caused. I doubt it.

Sydney

Poo....

MOULDY POLITICS BREAKS WIND

On my way out for a beer on Sunday lunchtime I found that someone had pushed some rather scruffy-looking leaflets through the letter box. What could they be? I wondered. Religion or someone selling something? Well, a bit of both it turned out, because they were copies of "Pinpoint" newsletter of the Hastings Liberal Association which was trying to sell us the Liberal/SDP alliance and you would certainly need something approaching religious faith to fall for that.

Because I'm really quite a nice person beneath my rough exterior I shan't be sarcastic about the poor layout, printing etc, but simply say that seeing as only $\frac{1}{4}$ of the thing is specific to Hastings it would have made sense to have it done by the national party who might have made a better job of it.

As soon as I started reading it I was convulsed with laughter-- "A breath of fresh air is blowing away the cobwebs of the old political order. The new Liberal/SDP Alliance offers a fresh start for Britain....." and so on. Well, yes, what can one say? "A breath of fresh air" which is going to blow stale old political opportunists like Owen, Jenkins and Williams back into power? More like a farting fit.

Inside this document there is a list of policies, most of which are so vague they are utterly meaningless. For example, what is one to make of "government in the national interest"? Could be anything, couldn't it? Another says "membership of NATO for the proper defence of Britain"-- in other words, more money wasted on nuclear weapons while eight million people in Britain live below the poverty line. Great. Wonderful.

I happen to know that there are decent people in the local Liberal party who are honestly interested in making the world a better place.

Why on earth don't they leave?

Steve.

@@@@@@@@@

eh?

@@@@@@@@@

Well? Why not?

And now.....

ARE YOU FED UP WITH HELPING TO FINANCE SIR PETER PARKER'S EXTRAVAGANT LIFESTYLE?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ABLE TO TRAVEL THE RAILWAYS OF BRITAIN AT REASONABLE PRICES? (i.e. almost free).

If so, here are some useful tips:-

1) the "LAYMAN'S SEASON TICKET" (example: Littlehampton to Hastings Return).
You buy a period return ticket. Such tickets are valid for three months. Using the legendary "LAYMAN" method you will be able to use this ticket over and over again for three months, just by following this simple routine:-

When you get to the station of departure, buy a ticket to the next station (e.g. St. Leonards). This will cost you no more than a few pence, but it will get you on the right train. When you get off at a halfway station (say, Brighton), then you simply show your ordinary return ticket (it will not be clipped). On the next stage of your journey (say, Brighton to Littlehampton), then simply purchase a ticket to Hove. If you arrive at your final destination late enough, there will probably be no staff at the station. However, if it's early evening, you can still get away without getting your ticket clipped-- simply ask for a single from the previous station (in our case it would be Angmering). SO-- at the most a £5 train journey has cost you 70p, and remember you can keep using it dozens of times for up to three months.

Next week:- "The Aldrington Swindle".

Peter the Painter.

While Larry energetically fingerfucked me, I reached out for his prick. I curled my dainty fingers around the lony, hairy base of his hard-on and whacked

Hate
Song

WE DON'T NEED THIS

Clearly, men need women for more than women need men

The Boiler.

not intended as any sort of separatist rant, merely a comment..... in the hairy sack in the palm of my hand. Then, while ramming my fingers in and out of my hole, he tried to get me to blow him by pushing the back of my head down at his groin.

WHO WAS THAT LADY I SAW YOU WITH LAST NIGHT?"

OH-- THAT WAS NO LADY, BUT SHE'S A BIT OF ALRIGHT... NOT MUCH OF A BRAIN BUT HER BODY'S FINE ANYWAY-- KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF 'CAUSE SHE'S MINE/ AND OF COURSE YOU KNOW THAT WOMEN ALWAYS LIE/ THEY ONLY DO THAT 'CAUSE THEY'RE SHY/ WHEN DEEP DOWN ALL THEY WANT IS A FUCK/ OR GET HER HEAD DOWN, MAKE HER SUCK/ YEAH, DEEP DOWN SHE JUST WANTS A SCREW/ SHE WANTS THE MOST THAT YOU CAN DO/ WELL, DEEP DOWN SHE JUST WANTS YOUR PRICK/ WELL, THAT'S SICK! AND THEN IF YOU DON'T FUCK HER RIGID// SHE'S EITHER QUEER OR ELSE SHE'S FRIGID// ELSE WON'T SHE FALL FOR YOUR CHARMS// WHEN YOU HOLD HER IN THOSE BIG STRONG MANLY ARMS!?:

AND AIN'T IT EVERY REAL MAN'S GREATEST DREAM/ TO MAKE ALL THOSE LITTLE GIRLS SCREAM? IT MIGHT JUST HURT A BIT AT FIRST BUT SHE'LL SOON GET OVER THE WORST/ AND NEVER MIND HER TEARS AND CRIES/ IT'S JUST ANOTHER OF THOSE LIES YOU CAN WANK INSIDE HER CUNT/ YOU CAN FUCK HER BACK AND FRONT/ YOU CAN FUCK HER 'TIL SHE BLEEDS/ CAST HER ASIDE, CALL HER A WHORE/ AND WHEN YOU'RE BORED COME BACK FOR MORE/ THAT'S ALL FOR NOW// INTENDED TO OFFEND EVEN THE HARDEST OF SENSITIVES////

I can't enjoy a normal sex life because of what happened

DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT

Aims and Principles of the Direct Action Movement.

- (1) The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation
- (2) Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society
- (3) We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need not profit
- (4) In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over 'on behalf of' the workers
- (5) We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is for independent organisation in the work place and community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of, and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers organisations must be controlled by workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movement. Any and all delegates and representatives of such workers organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers
- (6) We are opposed to all States and State institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all States do not exist to protect the workers of those States, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class
- (7) We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and the environment

The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism; a system where the workers alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, bureaucrats, bosses and so-called 'experts'. Rather than diplomacy and endless political debate, we believe in Direct Action.

If you want to find out more about syndicalism contact the Direct Action Movement, 28, Lucknow Drive, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.

Published by Direct Action Movement.

FELLOW WORKERS: WHY PAY THE LABOUR PARTY SCABS

Now that we have a Tory government we, the workers, can expect a rough time. As usual the economy is in a mess, as usual we get the blame, and as usual we are told that we must make sacrifices to put things right. We are told that our wages need to be kept down, yet the government gives itself a massive 75% pay rise, gives its top bureaucrats a massive wage rise and substantially cuts the tax bill of the wealthy elite. On top of this welfare, health, education and other services which the working class rely on (and pay for) are to be slashed dramatically in a new round of public expenditure cuts. To make things worse, in case you had any idea about not accepting low wages and reduced services, the Tories intend to put a spanner in the works by making certain forms of industrial action illegal (i.e. so-called secondary picketing, solidarity strikes etc.), by restricting picketing a lot further than it already has been by social-democrat union officials, and by imposing a statutory 'cooling off period' in the guise of a compulsory postal ballot. AND this, no doubt, will enable the Tories to increase the use of police and the courts in industrial disputes.

We could go on further about how the policies of the Tory government are anti-working class, however, we know that to most trade unionists we'd be preaching to the converted as it is obvious that the Labour Party is anti-working class and actively promotes the interests of the social elites.

What about the Labour Party though? Certainly the Labour Party has always given the impression that it works for the working class interests, after all that was why, so we are told, it was set up by the 1899 TUC Congress as the Labour Representation Committee (it didn't become the Labour Party until 1906). However, on closer scrutiny, a different picture emerges. After all who was in power before the Tories and through the 'social contract' kept our wages down? Who backed the employers against the Firemen, the lorry drivers, health workers, Council workers and many thousands of other workers who wanted nothing more than a decent standard of living? Who slashed public services to the bone? The answer - the Labour Party, the party which is supposed to defend working class interests, yet bends over backwards to help the ruling elite retain its position of power. (This isn't surprising considering that the Labour Party leadership is part of this elite).

The Political Levy

It's sickening, now that the Labour Party is in opposition, to see them shedding crocodile tears for us as the Tories tighten the screws - the very same screws which the last Labour government applied in the first place.

Tragically, we supply the boots which Labour uses to kick us in the teeth - most of their finance (approximately 90%) comes from payments from 58 unions. In fact, if it was not for this massive financial leg up, Labour would be unable to run its central organisation nor any election campaign. These unions include TGWU, AUEW, GMWU, NUPE, USDAW, EETPU, NUM, UPW, NUR, UCATT, ASTMS, APEX, COSHE, POEU, AS Boilermakers, TSSA, ISTC, ASLEF, FTAT, NATSOPA, NGA, NUAAW, NU Blastfurnacemen, NUFLAT, NU Seamen, NUSMW.

How is this money paid to Labour? Firstly, all 58 unions are affiliated to the Labour Party, which means that a proportion of the political levy that their membership pays go directly to the Labour Party in the form of individual affiliation fees. This affiliation is to increase to 32p per year per affiliated member in 1980. This doesn't sound a lot, but when it is taken into account that about 5,805,000 trade unionists pay a political levy, (mainly without realising), this amounts to a lot of cash (approximately £1,857,000 per year). A good example is the T&GWU, 1,250,000 of whose members pay the levy out of membership of 2,072,818, who in 1978 paid over £278,880 in affiliation fees.

**Voting for socialism is not socialism
any more than a menu is a meal.**

Secondly, money is transferred via trade union sponsorship of MPs and the payment of grants for the 'upkeep' of sponsored MPs' constituencies, this saving Labour the expense of doing it themselves. At present there are 132 Trade Union sponsored MPs. T&GWU and AUEW have the most at 20 each, followed closely by the NUM with 16 and the GMWU with 14. The T&GWU in 1978 spent £12,257 in grants to its sponsored MPs for the upkeep of their constituencies.

Thirdly, every time there's an election the unions donate generously to Labour's election fund. For example for the 1979 election the GMWU gave £100,000, T&GWU £150,000, NUM £100,000, AUEW (Engineering) £102,400, APEX £50,000 and ASTMS £50,000. Many other unions also gave generously. There are of course, various other ways in which the unions transfer funds to the Labour Party, for example in total during 1978 the T&GWU gave £408,973 as well as being part of a consortium to build the Labour Party's new H.Q.

All this money comes from a common source, the political levy which you pay, and in return, what do you get for it? Nothing, save a kick in the teeth from Labour everytime they're in power. As the old saying goes, **only a fool keeps a dog which only bites its master**. The remedy for all this is quite simple - contract out of paying the political levy; you have a legal right to do this under the 1913 Trades Union Act. Exercise this right (simply complete the form at the bottom of this leaflet and hand it to your shop steward or union representative).

You should also try to get your branch or union region or even the union itself, to disaffiliate from the Labour Party. Whether you can do this or not will largely depend upon the internal structure and the state of internal democracy within your union. However, this was precisely what 2 of NUPE's regions did recently after their shabby treatment at the hands of Callaghan's government. At all times you should resist the transfer of union funds to the Labour scabs, after all we have enough on our hands fighting the Tories without having to fight a second bunch of Tories going under the name of the Labour Party.

We the people are not free. Our democracy is but a name. We vote? What does that mean? It means that we choose between Tweedledum and Tweedledee. We elect expensive masters to do our work for us, and then blame them because they work for themselves and their class.

Helen Keller, 1911.

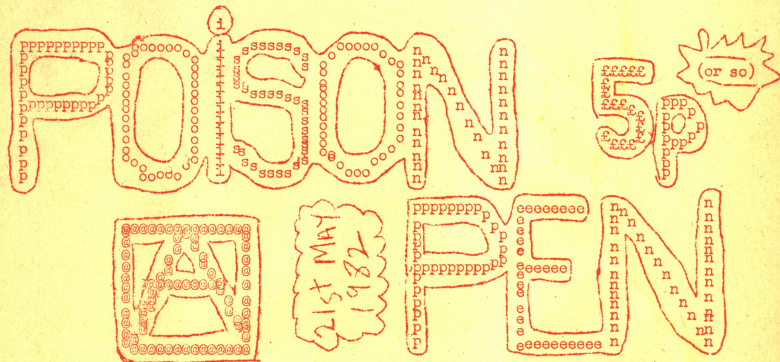
Direct Action Movement,
28, Lucknow Drive,
Sutton-in-Ashfield,
Nottinghamshire.

Name..... Union number.....

Branch..... Union.....

**I wish to contract out of paying the political levy in protest against the Labour Party's anti-working class policies.
This is my right under the 1913 Trades Union Act.**

Signed.....



BRITAIN'S ONLY WEEKLY
ANARCHIST RAG

CONTRIBUTE!!!!

WE NEED MONEY, DUPLICATOR PAPER, TYPING
STENCILS, STAPLERS & STAPLES and WRITTEN
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YOU IN ORDER TO
CONTINUE. PRESERVE PART OF OUR NATIONAL
HERITAGE! DON'T LET THE 'SIN' AND THE
'DAILY MAUL' HAVE IT ALL THEIR OWN WAY!
SUPPORT YOUR POISON PEN.

PROTEST!!!!

JOIN THE COMSE & HEALTH SERVICE MARCH
TOMORROW MORNING (SATURDAY) IN SUPPORT OF
THEIR 12% PAY CLAIM! DON'T LET THE MAD
AXE WOMAN GET AWAY WITH IT! THE MARCH
STARTS AT THE PARK GATES AT 11:45 AND WILL
PROCEED THROUGH THE TOWN. SUPPORT THE
UNDERPAID NHS SLAVES.

THIS WEEK IN POISON PEN:::::

ANIMAL LIBERATION: PORTON DOWN PROTEST REPORT-----CLAIMANTS NEWS: SPORTS CENTRE CAPERS--
---CHINESE PHILOSOPHERS: EVERY HOME SHOULD HAVE ONE-----POLICE RIOT TACTICS: BE PREPARED
-----THE RETURN OF BILLY BINGE-----ALL THE USUAL OLD GIBBER AND.....RAY REARDON!

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY HASTINGS FREE PRESS, 92 LONDON ROAD, ST LEONARDS-on-SHIRE, SX.

Happy birthday to Liz at the unemployed centre-- she doesn't look a day over 30!

We always welcome reports of demos, marches etc that are taking place for various causes, since obviously we cannot cover everything, so if you've been on a march or whatever, please let our readers know what went on. We're especially grateful for the following report from one of our readers who was at the recent Porton Down protest.....

PORTON DOWN REPORT

On Saturday 24th April a coach set off from Hastings at 6:30a.m. The occupants were all concerned about the abhorrent suffering of animals in government laboratories at Porton Down, the Ministry of Defence centre on the Salisbury Plains. The experiments conducted there include shooting sheep with rubber bullets and poisoning monkeys with deadly gases, radiation etc for military aims. Animals are actually bred on the premises purely for the purpose of man's abuse.

We were taking part in a national demonstration against "the manufacturing of war with animals' lives". Many supporters were also CND members and a great deal of interesting literature was handed out when we arrived at the Salisbury Coach Station, our meeting place. There was, somewhat surprisingly, a fantastic turnout, roughly between four and six thousand people, many of whom drew attention to themselves by wearing rabbit costumes, lab technicians gas masks and overalls, carrying large banners or merely by their personal appearances, e.g. bright green mohicans!

The march began in Salisbury town centre and ended at the actual laboratories approximately eight miles later! There was no lack of enthusiasm amongst the crowd and the constant chanting helped to take our minds off aching legs and blistered feet. This did die down as we found ourselves surrounded by fields, and not a soul in sight, with the exception of our fellow protesters of course. There was the occasional outburst to keep spirits high and to remind our friendly escorts-- the police-- why we were there.

People were very friendly and got along extremely well together considering the wide variety of sorts in close proximity to each other. However, once or twice the chanting entered the realms of politics with gems like: "Maggie Thatcher walks on water-- but we all know that shit floats!" which did not please certain members. When asked to refrain from using the opportunity to voice their personal opinions they stopped without question or bad feeling. The Anti-Vivisection Society provided everyone with a free cup of orange juice along the way, which was greatly appreciated. A bucket for donations to the Lord Dowding Fund was provided and most people were very generous.

The cries of "What do we want?"-- "Animal liberation!" and "When are we going to get it?"-- "Now!" gradually altered their tone when implications of actually forcing our way into the buildings entered the chants.

It was pretty stirring stuff, especially as the young man with the loud hailer who was nearest us was providing us by shouting: "What are we going to do when we get there? Occupy! What are we going to do when we see the police barriers? Smash them! Are we afraid of the law? NO!"

The most enjoyable slogan to shout was: "Porton Down, torture town, burn, burn, burn it down!"

When we finally arrived we were confronted with a tall, heavily reinforced barrier lined with policemen, our side of the barrier. Some people charged at this but, not surprisingly, the police retaliated and the majority of demonstrators with a little less guts prepared for a sit-down protest. The lack of organisation let us down: if quick action had been taken we could have undoubtedly entered the premises.

A lorry, publicising the cause of the demonstration and sporting a life-size dummy of Rex Watson, the Director of Porton Down (which was later burned, much to the delight of the crowd), had travelled beside us and was apparently to be put to good use.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

The plan was for everyone to sit and protest peacefully until word was given, when everyone would move quickly and the lorry would be driven into the gate. Unfortunately very few people knew this, including us, and being restless we all got back to our feet and tried different means. One or two people conquered the barbed wire fence at the side of the drive leading to the gate and hundreds followed them.

Once entrance had been gained into the field at the side, police reinforcements were sent in and we battled on to pull down two more wire fences. By the time we reached these the police had beaten us to it and were lined up on the other side, making our job even more difficult. Not deterred though, we grabbed the fences at every opportunity and pulled hard for the few seconds that we could before the police stopped us.

There was one eighty-four-year-old woman who was fantastic: she pulled resolutely at the wire, completely regardless of the police. She posed quite a problem to the police because whenever they attempted to stop her we yelled at them for bullying a defenceless old lady! Sadly she was arrested before the day was out but then she did keep kicking coppers in the shins!

There was a particularly vicious young policewoman who pushed a girl's hands back onto the fence after she had let go, but she pushed them onto the sharp knots on the top of it rather than onto the smooth wire where they had previously been. So the poor girl had her fingers cut quite nastily and the smug policewoman simply looked the other way.

Despite several persistent attempts, we failed to conquer the last barrier. The police were very strong in numbers and it was impossible to rip the fence down. There was a lot of abuse slung at the police but basically they were a nuisance rather than the enemy and things did get a bit out of hand.

Back at the coach everyone was shattered but pleased with the achievements of the day. We didn't obtain entry to the inner compounds of the P.D. labs but we did get closer than previous attempts so we were quite satisfied with that. Predictably enough a fair number of arrests were made-- reports range from twenty-three to twenty-seven, but no-one from Hastings had the misfortune, although two people from our coach were taken to the cop shop. They came from Worthing and, I believe, had to pay a £20 fine each.

The whole demonstration was spoiled largely by police brutality, although I accept that we did provoke some of it. We had a bloody good cause to be angry after all, and there was no excuse for the vicious policewoman to act the way she did, or for the senseless violence inflicted upon the more high-spirited participants, especially the punks, or for dragging people over the fence by the hair in order to arrest them.

All in all it was a very worthwhile day and encouraging to see the overwhelming support shown by people from as far afield as Scotland! The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection deserve a pat on the back for organising the protest and the co-operation of several smaller organisations was promising for future events.

Deb-Deb

Sounds like fun, eh?
More of these sort of reports are very welcome, so get to it people!

REVIEW SECTION:

SHIO T'ZU: A PHILOSOPHER FOR
OUR TIME

Regular readers will have noticed the quotations we frequently include within the pages of POISON PEN which are attributed to the 12th century Chinese philosopher Shio T'zu.

You may be interested to find out more about the life of this fascinating and unique man.

Shio was born in a remote village in the mountainous region on the banks of the Luan River in northern China around the end of the 11th century. Little is known of his early life as the standard of literacy was, naturally, very low and records were not made, so we can merely speculate on his early years. However, we do know he moved south to Yanglingqing when he was about eleven years old to join the Buddhist monastery there, where he was regarded as a brilliant novice, despite his lack of formal education. He became increasingly dissatisfied with Buddhism, and after much consideration, decided to leave the monastery for the life of a traveller.

China was a country in turmoil at that time: she had been engaged in virtually continuous conflict against the hordes of invaders who attempted to enter the country over the northern frontier. Many of these were repulsed by military means; many others were placated by financial bribes. During the Sung dynasty these bribes increased rapidly, both in number and size, and soon the finances of the country were virtually exhausted. The poorest are always those who are hit hardest when the coffers of a country are low, and as Shio travelled around the country he became gradually more and more appalled at the extremes he saw: peasants were dying of starvation in the rice-paddies while their well-fed masters were wielding whips to force them to work harder.

Everywhere he went he was regarded by the people as a very wise and charismatic man; although he never wilfully utilised this charisma to entice people to follow him, he had soon acquired a large group of disciples, many of whom started to write down what he was saying, although he obviously would have preferred those who followed him to branch out on their own:

"You may seek to follow the wisdom of those who have lived before you; but seek also to create your own wisdom, for he who strives for the truth will discover the ultimate peace of his soul."

He is perhaps most renowned for the part he played in inspiring the famous "Coolie Rebellion" in the Jiangxi region in the mid-12th century where the peasants joined together and overthrew their cruel masters who had oppressed them for so long:

"The tyrant who listens to the sighing of the wind for tidings of revolt will be distracted and not see that his servants have left the rice fields and approach his abode with rice-flails and sharpened knives."

The peasants did in fact declare a peoples' state based on Shio's theory of 'libertarian Taoism', which only came to an end with the invasion of China by Genghis Khan in the early 13th century.

He also acquired a great number of enemies amongst the rulers of China who saw in this charismatic sage a serious threat to their power. Shio was a very outspoken critic of the cruel 'custom' of female foot-binding, which was regarded as beautiful as men, as well as keeping a woman in her place. No woman would be eligible for marriage if she did not suffer this repulsive mutilation, so it was in her family's interests to bind her feet, in the same way as her mother's had been, and her daughter's would be in her turn:

"Woman, your soul will not be free until your body is released from its constraints; for the ties which man-made custom has decreed will bind you are also the ties which bind the freedom of your spirit."

No-one is very sure of how Shio T'zu met his death: some scholars believe he was captured by soldiers who had been hired to execute this troublesome man as he walked through some remote mountain pass; others believe he set sail for some other country. We do not know. However, the Shio T'zu legacy is one of a multitude of wise sayings which are just as relevant to life in twentieth-century Britain as they were to him eight centuries ago, which will ensure that this great man will never be forgotten.

Further information is to be found in Hermann Hundscheiss's "Shio Tizu: The Man and the Myth".

melita.

y'see, we can be just as boring as "Freedom"'s review section any day.....

Right well I'm going to write about Ray Reardon right now whether you like it or not. Did you see last Sunday's snooker finals? I thought Higgins deserved to forfeit his title when he brought that revolting brat on at the end. Really sick, wasn't it? Ray wouldn't have done a thing like that. Well Ray lost in good spirit and I don't doubt he'll be back next year and win, won't you Ray? Anyway I went to see cuddly Ray in Folkestone this week playing against Dennis Taylor. Taylor was playing quite well, and Ray was playing in his own inimitable manner, so of course he lost. But he's still a good loser, just as well really. But oh joy of joys! Oh what rapture! Oh happy day! I met cuddly Ray and my life has never been the same since.....oh bliss! Oh greasy Welshman! He's just as cuddly in real life as he is on telly-- and he hasn't got any vile babies so he must be OK eh? And I don't care if he used to be a pig-- at least he's seen the error of his ways and he beat that creep Steve Davis during the last series of Pot Black ha-ha! That showed 'em what he can do. Of course he probably let Higgins win cos he feels sorry for him which just goes to prove how benevolent he is to lesser mortals and I still like you even if you lose all the time Ray, so don't worry about anyone else you cuddly beastie and make sure you don't go having any babies ok? Well I could go on forever about how wonderful Ray is but let's have an advert instead.....

TONY ALLEN LIVE----"ONE OF OUR SAFETY VALVES IS MISSING"---- ALTERNATIVE COMEDIAN IN
40 MINUTES OF RADICAL STAND-UP COMEDY----CURRENTLY A FAVOURITE WITH 'NO NUKES MUSIC'----
CASSETTE ONLY----PRICE £3---- AVAILABLE FROM RED TAPES/P.O. BOX 64/ SHEFFIELD S1 1BY

but does he like Ray Reardon????

SIX

CLAIMANTS AND THE SPORTS CENTRE.

Since November last year, Hastings Borough Council has run a scheme whereby the unemployed can use the facilities at the Sports Centre for half the normal price on 4 days a week between 11 am and 12.30pm. On Tuesday (18th May) evening, a petition signed by about 200 unemployed people was presented to the Tourism and Recreation Committee asking for the following improvements to be made in the scheme:

That the scheme should be open to all claimants, not just those who are unemployed. It seems totally unjust to me that the disabled and single parents, for example, should be denied this benefit when they are so obviously just as badly off as the unemployed, and indeed have extra problems like mobility, looking after their kids, and the fact that they are almost certain to remain without work for longer than the average unemployed person.

That the hours should be extended to cover all but the busiest periods.

That the arrangement that those wanting to use the facilities have to sign on at the Centre each Monday for that week should be scrapped and replaced with something less restrictive.

That a creche should be provided.

That there should be free swimming during the least busy periods.

During the presentation of the petition, which was very ably done by Jacques Valton, it was pointed out that most of the above points are incorporated into the schemes run by other Councils such as Maidstone, Sunderland, and Vauxhall Bridge, and Brighton. In the debate which followed, none of the councillors said anything very awful, although the difficulty some of them seem to have in grasping what is going on never ceases to amaze me, and it was eventually decided to ask the officers to report back on the feasibility of extending the hours and making the concessions open to certain categories of claimants as well as the unemployed. Tory councillor Mrs Fabian cast the only vote against this. The Committee meets again in 6 weeks time and at that meeting, some sort of decision ought to be taken.

These suggestions are perfectly reasonable, and if they are not accepted the Claimants Union will certainly organise a protest campaign.

STEVE

#####

In case you don't know by now, Hastings Unemployed & Claimants Advice Centre is situated at the town centre, Upper Central Hall, Bank Buildings, Middle Street; it's open 9-5 mon-fri. Tel Hast.428375 for expert advice on how to rid your cat of fleas, how to break motorcycles, dial-a-recipe from mother, stunt your growth in six easy lessons, tips on chatting up blond men, and if you ask them very nicely they might give you some advice if you're having problems claiming from DHSS.....

HAVING A RIOT OF A TIME

The Daily Mail and the Scum have this week reported that Scotland Yard has borrowed two water cannon from West Germany for six months. The idea is that they shall be used in the event of "serious rioting" and are on loan to the Metropolitan police until British ones are available.

The whole idea of the use of water cannon and their allies, like CS gas and plastic bullets, seems very dubious to me. Although it is said they are "final options", I wonder why it is that, along with delivery of the water cannon last week, the pigs also started training with four German instructors in their use.

It seems likely that they are anticipating a repeat of last year's riots, and are taking as their motto the boy scouts' belief of "Be Prepared".

Water cannon and other riot defence/attack equipment have been used in other European countries for many years. The scenes have always been violent ones-- and I'm not just talking about rioters either.

It is well known that gas/bullets/water cannon have been used to break up peaceful demonstrations in France, Germany and Switzerland. Some time ago Swiss youth protested about the way they are treated in that country, and the way the government/country is run. This began as a peaceful demonstration, but when the police arrived with riot shields, water cannon and plastic bullets, it ended up as a picture of war. The big divide between youth and "establishment" in Switzerland was shown to be all too true.

I fear in this country that, far from being the final option, the introduction of water cannon and riot gear could become the start of the final solution.

Cruella de Ville.

P.S. it took me about a quarter of an hour to bung this down. Why can't more P.P. readers find some time to spare to write their views??

@@@@@@

Too right sport.

We want lots more contributions-- thanks to all those who have gone to the trouble of writing for us this week; I haven't had a chance to do much 'cause I've been away so that's one reason why you've got a smaller organ this week. Apart from that, no-one's written much for us yet again this week. Send anything to us c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Rd, St Leonards and we shall bless you forever, wash your feet in Guinness, strew rose petals in your path etc etc.....

Last page i think....

And last Saturday when we were supping a pint of Shipley's Guinness down at the Nelson, who should turn up but our old friend Billy Binge, all the way from Wales! Remember all those old ^{N (2)}Detiats gigs at which the Binge used to appear clutching his book of sordid rhymes? We dragged him along to a party at the Yelton where he recited a poem he'd composed just that day, then he wrote another one but there wasn't time for him to perform it, so here it is.....a world exclusive....specially for readers of R.P.::::

In a birthday party at the Yelton Hotel
Gasping for breath from the bogs which smell,
Warm bottled Guinness, sick on the floor,
Spew your bleeding guts out, still come back for more.
No room to move, plenty room to sweat,
Couples in the corner starting to pet.
He had a dard straight face, nothing on his mind
'Cept his hand on her arse to see what he could find--
She didn't really want him, she didn't have a choice
With his Gucci shoes and his smooth-talking voice.
Home they both went, both got laid, got herself in trouble,
The baby in her belly grew faster than his stubble.
The bastard arrived but all it did was yell
And remind them of that night in the Yelton Hotel.

BILLY BINGE.

And a message from Pete whose party it was..... Dear all, thanx for coming down to the Yelton for a mega almost birthday party--Thankz to Gin A and Lez Muts for playing (with us all) and to the post Bunge (well that's what he wrote!- T'pist). Hope to have another soon (see you when the lights are low!).Cheers Pete.

And if you didn't understand that, don't worry.....

@@@

I haven't a clue if there's anything exciting starting up at the Centre this week, but there's a women's group meeting as usual on Wednesday morning at 10:30. All women are welcome.....creche available for brats.

Drawing class starting up there on June 3rd (Thurs Week). Contrary to rumours, I will not be appearing in my birthday suit to pose (actually that's a cunningly concealed reminder that it's my birthday on that day eek 21!). Bring your own paper & pencils along 'cause the Centre can't afford to provide those--

Let us know if you're organising anything exciting-- gigs, theatre groups etc etc and we'll publicise it for you.

Thanx to Chris Teen for assistance with typing; otherwise spelling errorz, mistakes etc created by melita;;;thamx to Erik, Steve, Nipple & the shortest man in the world for printing.

CONTRIBUTE!!!! We need MONEY as usual! Back next week with a bigger ish, we hope..... i'm going away to drool over my Ray Reardon autographs.....

Printed & pubbed by Hastings Free Press.

Poison Pen

FRI. 6th
AUG
1982



POVERTY

ONE OF THE FIRST ACTIONS of the Tory government on coming to power was to cancel the annual publication of the official poverty estimates. Figures were now to be published only once in two years. So the most recent figures available relate to 1979 and even these are not available to the general public as the government will not publish them on grounds of cost. They are, however, available to M.P.s-- not many of whom are thought to live below the poverty line.

Given the results of this survey, it is not surprising that the government is not eager for us to see it.
As of 1979:-

2.1 million people, living in 1.4 million families were living below the official (supplementary benefit) poverty line.

Almost one in four of them (22.7%) were in poverty even though they were in families where the "breadwinner" was in full-time work or self-employed.

9.5 million people, in 5.5 million families were estimated to be living on an income of less than 40% above the poverty line.

Since 1979 we have had another couple of years of Tory policy-- the deliberate creation of more unemployed combined with a concerted attack on working-class living standards: pay restraint, cuts in public services, cuts in the real value of benefits, abolition of earnings-related benefit, the taxation of benefit etc etc. Who can doubt that the situation is now considerably worse?

The figures for 1981 will not become available until 1983 at the earliest.

By which time the election will have been and gone. How convenient for the Tories.

But then politicians are famous for making up the rules as they go along.

LETTERS

Apol's to the author of the following for the delay in its appearance within these pages but here it is.....

CHARITY MISMANAGEMENT?

I WONDER IF the Charities Commission ever realise how much damage can be done to their appeals for money, when such a glaring example of waste as the Pestalozzi Children's Village at Sedlescombe exists.

This charity, excellent as its motives were once, has now sunk to an all-time low. They appeal for money, which is what all charities do, but these people have the means to be almost self-supporting, with their acres of farmland, which surely should be growing crops and raising cattle, instead of lying neglected and weed-ridden.

I hear so many people who used to donate money to them saying that they will never give any more to a place that is so deplorably managed.

B.A.K.

.. that should chuck the cat in amongst the pigeons eh? anyone else know anything more about this place? If so, get in touch.....

Dear P.P./H.A.G. friends,

Many thanks for copies of 'Poison Pen'. It's good. It must be a lot of work for what only looks like rather a few people. Enclosed some recent issues of 'Red Rag' (Reading's only newspaper). It's very different.

The problem with being a specifically anarchist paper seems to me that you have to be part of the Movement first and a local paper second. Or at least you have two big responsibilities instead of one. Or something. (I'd imagine more anarchists around the country read P.P. than R.R.; but also that more people in Reading read R.R. than people in Hastings read P.P.)—Just because there are so few anarchist papers around.

The style of Poison Pen seems to me might be an obstacle if you want to change the paper's role— I gather you're not entirely happy to carry on in quite the same way. I mean the way you write long replies to articles submitted in the same issue (I enjoy them a lot and usually agree with them!) It sort of marks the paper out as your own private affair.

Red Rag is not an anarchist paper, but a lot of anarchists or ex-anarchists are involved in it. I think anarchists are in a good position to put out radical local papers because they are non-aligned. One thing that struck me at the workshop on Propaganda at Beyond the Bullshit (@conference) was how different sorts of publications etc were appropriate in different areas. So maybe the Rag etc etc I can't keep up this kind of crap for long thank goodness.

Thanks again! Love,

James for R.A.G. or the Rag or something.

Hmmmm? Oh well-- thanks for the letter and the Rags-- in reply to some of your criticism, we have a problem with distribution here. I see the Rag is available from eight regular outlets, whereas we have none, other than sticking a few copies in the rack of leaflets in the library, or into WH Smith's travel papers rack outside everytime we pass by.

P.T.O.

from previous page.....

Since we've been lacking in a shop premises we've not been able to get rid of so many copies as previously, and also the amount of contributions, both financial and written, has declined. And now the type-writer's going wrong bah!

As for the criticism that P.P. is our "own private affair"-- well all I can give as an excuse is that it's bound to get that way when it's got together by only two people. They seem to be luckier in Reading in that they've got quite a few people involved. Hence, we need more contributions from you lot out there. Observant readers may have noticed that P.P. didn't appear last week: this is because we received no contributions, and we're not going to bother to stir ourselves to compensate for your lack of effort!

melita.

@@@@@

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ANIMAL LIBERATION

FRONT WHO LAST SUNDAY NIGHT ATTACKED A

"CHICKEN FACTORY" NEAR BEKHILL. THE ACTION,

AGAINST ROSPAR LTD., CAUSED HUNDREDS OF

POUNDS WORTH OF DAMAGE: CONVEYOR BELTS

WERE SMASHED AND SLOGANS PAINTED ON WALLS.

@@@@@

Oh yeah-- further to the letter from Reading @'s, RED RAG is available from: Box 19, Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham St., Reading. Send 'em 50p or so and you should receive a small pile of rags.

@@@@@

Send any contributions to Poison Pen c/o

Hastings Free Press, 92 London Rd.,

St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

Hastings Free Press also undertakes

printing jobs: send 'em details of what

you want printed and they'll give you an

estimate of costs. CHEAP!

We are indebted to "PIGS FOR SLAUGHTER", the Bulletin of the Thames Valley @ Youth Federation for the following article:

BRITAIN AT WAR

No doubt many people have heard about the battles within the Labour party to stem the apparent flood of Trot subversives. What many do not realise is that the same battle is being waged in industry, using computer files, blacklists and hidden closed circuit T.V.

"The purpose of security in its widest sense is to protect a way of life." These words were spoken by Peter Hamilton, one time top executive of Chubb and security adviser to private industry. Another quote from him sums up the aims of the rapidly developing umbrella of organisations whose job it is to root out libertarian or left wing subversion in industry. He and many others involved in private industry argue that society in general and capitalism in particular are under attack from people whose tactics involve "moral, if not always legal, crimes and both are concerned with personal gain and redistribution of wealth." Furthermore, Trade Union militants and activists are being regarded increasingly as a threat which must be dealt with quickly and effectively.

Larger firms are now protecting their profit margins from shop floor agitation by gathering information about their employees and their political involvements. This aim has developed into the setting up of several organisations within the free enterprise framework whose job it is to compile blacklists of political troublemakers and to monitor the progress of the more militant sections of the Trade Union movement.

The largest and best known of these groups in Britain is the Economic League, whose stated aim is "exposing the experiences, intentions and strategy of subversive organisations and providing positive education to combat misrepresentation by industrial agitators."

In 1973 the League received nearly half a million pounds in donations and subscriptions from its member companies. Among the donors were British Leyland (£3,000), Midland Bank (£4,070), National Westminster Bank (£4,625) and Slater Walker (£2,500).

(P.T.O.)

The League employs a total of 163 staff (no doubt after careful screening) and among its activities during 1973 was the printing and distribution of more than twenty million leaflets on the dangers of subversion. By monitoring Trade Union and left wing publications, the gathering of information provided by member firms and sympathetic right wing Trade Unionists and by attending union meetings, the League has built up a vast blacklist of "subversives" and the future plans.

Because of the secrecy that surrounds organisations like the Economic League, hard evidence of blacklisting is rare. Then again, senior management and security personnel never attempt to deny that it goes on. One company which donates to the League told the Observer newspaper that the League "does a hell of a lot of security vetting for us on political grounds".

In the early seventies, however, specific evidence of blacklisting arose out of an industrial dispute in southern England. Strachan's, an engineering factory near Southampton, had a strike in 1973. Up to the time of the occupation of the factory by the workers a year later when redundancies were announced, the Special Branch maintained regular contact with the firm's management. They told the firm that the local International Socialist group had picked the factory for unrest, and the Branch were kept informed of certain workers activities by a member of the management.















However, the Special Branch wasn't the only organisation involved. Some workers had discovered that the management had been telephoning a 'secret' number, giving a code number (520) and asking for information about various employees. When the Guardian newspaper telephoned the number they were told it was an Economic League ex-directory number.

The League is not the only organisation fighting to preserve Britain's way of life from imminent overthrow. Industrial Research and Information Services (IRIS) circulates to industry the names of militants. Common Cause is a similar organisation. According to the Companies Registry File, their aims are "to act as advisers to any company in the screening of those who might reasonably be expected to be engaging in activities detrimental to the welfare of the state." British United Industrialists received a total of \$248,939 in 1973 for its support of capitalism and its work investigating 'Front' organisations and subversive groups. Its aims are "the promotion, preservation so far as is legally practicable of the principle of free enterprise in trade and industry".

What all these organisations-- the Economic League, Aims of Industry, IRIS and so on-- have in common is that they are embedded in the role of the defence of the ruling class. They do not wish to preserve free enterprise because nationalisation is 'unfree' but because it disrupts to a limited extent the channel of power and wealth which Britain's feudal class structure owns. As anarchists we have no choice but to regard these associations as a formidable threat to the ideal of total workers' control over industry. Remember their names well, for they are our enemies as much as any other part of the state.

And in the week which saw the outrage at some new words for our beloved national anthem, Poison Pen proudly announces.....

A NATIONAL ANTI-THEM

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| O, take our imperious queen, |  | Politicians are the enemy, |  |
| Too long she has been seen, |  | Scatter them all with Maggie T. | |
| O save us all. | | Soon may they fall. | |
| They can send her to hell, |  | Confound their politics, | |
| Chas 'n' M, the rest as well, |  | Corruption, lies and dirty tricks, | |
| Why should they reign over us? |  | It's all a nasty fix, | |
| O stuff the lot. | | O save us all. | |
| Their wealth and gifts in store, |  | The rotten true blue mob, |  |
| They love to rob the poor |  | The patriotic slob, |  |
| And the Church connives |  | Save the anthem for. | |
| With the State and pigs on hand, |  | The jobless total can soar, | |
| For the law and order stand, |  | While the faithful cheer and clap | |
| Long have they trampled over us, |  | At that obscene lot of crap-- | |
| O rot the lot. | | O save us all. | |

Pat O'Riot.

NEXT WEEK: 100% PRICE INCREASE-- SO BUY IT THIS WEEK WHILE IT'S STILL FREE!
oh gor blimey innit abaht time yer writ sumfink for us yer lawz bleeder?

produced by the anarchic herds of
hastings

Turd of
Septicember
8Etoo

Poison Pen

still cheaper than the M&P

tampax rip-off >>>

I WOULD LIKE ALL WOMEN READERS OF POISON PEN TO HELP ME WITH A LITTLE CAMPAIGN I'VE THOUGHT UP. One thing that really winds me up about menstruation, apart from the usual things e.g. PMS etc etc, is the fact that I have to pay money for sanitary protection during those few days in every month.

Not only do I have to pay for the actual product, which is bad enough, but I have to pay VAT to the government for the privilege of using Tampax. Therefore I am taxed for being a woman. Therefore that makes me bloody cross.

Therefore I have thought up a little way round it which I would like every woman to try.

This is as follows:-

Always carry a pair of tweezers or scissors around with you. Whenever you go to a loo with a Tampax or sanitary towel machine in it, put ten or twenty pence in it and legally obtain the first box. Now comes the good bit. These machines are beautifully easy to rip off from. Just get hold of the next box with your tweezers or scissors and prise it out....and the next....and the next. By the way, make sure no-one's watching! When you have emptied the machine you will have lots of free Tampax for yourself and your friends.

Don't get me wrong-- I don't advocate criminal activity if it can be avoided, because the police can be very horrible as I know from personal experience. However, in this case I think women are entitled to act against this insidious tax on being a woman.

Join the campaign now! Tampax/towels should be free on demand!

FROM A STRICTLY ANONYMOUS POISON PEN FEMALE READER.

PRINTED + PUBBED BY HASTINGS FREE PRESS

THE OTHER

FALKLANDS

Now that the Falklands farce is over and the orgy of blood-lust, nationalism and racism which it prompted in the British press is subsiding, it is interesting to compare Britain's attitude towards the Falkland islanders with the treatment it meted out to the inhabitants of Diego Garcia.

Diego Garcia is a tiny island (13 miles long and 6 wide) in the little Chagos Archipelago 1,000 miles south of India and 2,000 miles east of Africa. Originally discovered and named by Portuguese explorers, in 1776 it was claimed and settled by French pioneers from Mauritius, 15,000 miles to the south-west. In 1815 at the end of the Napoleonic wars, Mauritius and the Chagos passed from the French to the British and the islanders (about 500 of them-- 60% African and 40% Indian) became British citizens, which they are to this day.

In 1965 the Labour government headed by scumbag Wilson granted independence to Mauritius on the condition that the Chagos remained British. A payment of £3 million was made to Mauritius as compensation: in effect, the British government bought the islands and the 1,800 inhabitants of Diego Garcia, thus proving that the slave trade was alive and well.

In 1966 the British government signed a defence treaty with the United States granting them the British Indian Ocean Territories as a military base. In return for the privilege the U.S. made a secret payment of \$11 million to Britain-- quite a healthy profit. Harold Wilson and the Labour party were performing their historic mission of maintaining and strengthening capitalism with a vengeance.

Diego Garcia was selected as base headquarters, the only problem being the people who happened to live there. The British state immediately started to solve that problem with the arrogant disregard for the lives and well-being of its citizens, which is the hallmark of all states. Islanders who went to Mauritius to get supp-

lies or for a holiday were prevented from returning. The British bought up the coconut industry in 1967 and closed it down, throwing the workers into poverty. Food imports were halted. By 1971 they had managed to drive out half the population by these terror tactics. In that year the first American troops arrived and evictions started. By 1973 the whole population of the Chagos had been expelled from their homeland.

So, while all good and true British patriots are patting themselves on the back and congratulating each other for rescuing the Falklanders from Argentinian fascism, they should spare a thought for the people of Diego Garcia who have been treated by Britain in a way for which I can think of no better word than fascist.

For further information see "Diego Garcia: A Contrast to the Falklands" by John Madeley, published by the Minority Rights Group. £1.20.

Also a review of the above in "Freedom" vol.43 no.16. 30p plus postage from 84p Whitechapel High St., London E1.

Steve.

~~~~~  
Congrats to Jane T. Blammer, former P.P. typist, who was recently married-- I'm sorry-- married to a windsurfer (do they really do it standing up like those vile car stickem claim????). Which only goes to prove what sort of effect working for the Hastings News has on people.....

And best wishes also to our friends in Animal Aid who were arrested last Monday for pulling down fences at Huntingdon animal research labs. Good on you! P.P. trusts a report will follow soon of the day's activities.

Don't forget contributions to Poison Pen are welcome on any topic-- news, reviews, letters, comments, grumbles, fiddles etc.

Send your contributions to us c/o: Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

~~~~~

BRIXTON POLICE WONDERFUL
SHOCK HORROR

Recently Melita and I spent a few days up in Brixton visiting the anarchists there. One night after going to the pub we were walking back to the I2I bookshop with one of the Brixton lot; as we arrived outside she went off round the corner towards her home while we went over the road to investigate a Chinese takeaway. Just then the police turned up. One cop jumped out of the car and stopped our friend while the other drove over to us and got out. What followed was nothing unusual, just the sort of shit you expect from the cops-- they took our names and gave me a quick frisking looking for dope.

What was unusual was the answer our comrade over the road received from the other cop when she asked why she had been stopped. "Well," said the officer, "We have to protect you white folks from being mugged by the blacks after you've bought dope off them."

Ha bloody ha. What a joker. I can imagine the sort of protection he had in mind: if we had had some dope on us no doubt we would have immediately been taken into protective custody to save us from rampaging blacks, then they would have taken it away so that we shouldn't run the risk of being mugged for it; later on we would have had large sums of money removed from us by a court so that we wouldn't have the opportunity to place ourselves in such jeopardy again.

Aren't the police kind? I know that I certainly sleep more soundly knowing that I am so well protected.

But seriously, it's bad enough being harassed by the police in this stupid, petty manner but it is worse when they try to shift the blame for that harassment onto blacks in order to set one section of the people off against another. It is also quite insulting that they should assume that every white person is as bigoted and racist as they are.

Steve.

((((()))

It was quite a relief to discover that Brixton was a lot less heavy this time than it was on my last visit (see P.P. 9.7.82): muggings seem to have subsided to a great extent; the only real hassles the inhabitants have to suffer now are the police harassment and the wonderful Lambeth council who are determined to oust the thriving squatting community. While we were up there, we paid a visit to Great Marlborough

(PTO)

(cont. from P.3) Street magistrates court, where one of the people arrested on June 6th after the CND demo in London was appearing, charged with behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace. He had been arrested in Orchard St, just off Oxford St, after he had allegedly pushed a woman whilst running from the clutches of the Special Patrol Group, a bunch of funsters well known for their good humour and deeply sympathetic understanding.

The defendant pleaded not guilty, saying that he had been to the CND rally and just happened to be going home to revise for his 'A' levels when he was caught up in the rabble of nasty anarchists which was thronging its way down Oxford Street, and he started running when he thought a fight had broken out.

The two SPG officers (P.C. Hugh Jones CO1170 and P.C. Geoffrey Waldren, both of No.3 SPG Leytonstone, pig-spotters!) gave their evidence surprisingly badly, the second one just re-reading the first's notes. Much was made of the fact that many of those in the Oxford Street march were wearing black-- "And what was this black uniform supposed to represent?" asked the aged upholder of justice and right in the magistrate's chair. When informed that these sinister persons were in fact anarchists (eeeeek!), he closely questioned the defendant as to where his sympathies lie, and whether he was an anarchist or not.

He vehemently denied that he held anarchic beliefs-- the truth or otherwise of this is only down to speculation-- and obviously the magistrate was in something of a benevolent frame of mind, accepting his word that he had just been caught up in something and had accidentally pushed the woman in the general panic and confusion. One in the eye for the SPG!

What would be great is if, when all the others who were arrested appear in court in a few weeks' time, all of them are acquitted and none of them turns out to be an anarchist! Fancy the SPG breaking up an anarcho march and only managing to arrest innocent passers-by!!! We shall see.

melita.

And now for something completely different.....

REVIEW: "ST. VITUS' BOOGIE" presented by MAJOR ROAD YOUTH THEATRE

Nine people turned up at the Unemployed Centre on Wednesday ..

(25th August) night to see this theatre group. Nine people.....

well, one has become accustomed to rampant apathy in this town, but that is ridiculous. It's not as if there was anything else to do.

Nevertheless, undaunted by the cavernous hall of the Unemployed Centre and the lack of an audience, they proceeded to serve up a play which was an entertaining mixture of slapstick comedy, music and one or two 'political' points thrown in for good measure.

The story concerns a mysterious outbreak of 'frenzy' amongst youngsters at a club called the "Black Spider" which is threatened with closure. The action of the play occurs a week or so after the event when a mysterious stranger turns up at the club asking questions. At first the kids think he is just another journalist after a story, but eventually he is revealed as a government psychologist sent to discover if what happened was an outbreak of St. Vitus' Dance and what happened to the manager of the club who disappeared the same night. (PTO).

St Vitus' Boogie continued.....

St. Vitus' Dance was a plague of mass insanity which struck whole communities in parts of Western Europe during the 13th and 14th centuries. Generally speaking, it was caused by eating diseased corn, but in some cases it appears to have happened spontaneously.

The story unfolds as the kids re-enact it for the stranger using rock music; the actors also sing, and use a few props-- jackets, wigs etc. For me this 'play within a play' was one of the best and most inventive ideas in the performance: the switch from one to another was handled very well and was used both to build tension and provide much of the humour.

Basically the story, which is revealed is one of a sleepy little town whose reactionary council becomes alarmed at an outbreak of vandalism and graffiti and decides to open a youth club with the aim of containing youthful discontent. The person employed as manager of the club is a nasty piece of work-- a hip capitalist trendy who, while spouting stuff about "helping the kids" blah blah, is really just on the make for himself.

The play ends with a re-enactment of the original frenzy which becomes real, with the kids rejecting both the manager and the government psychologist, who are both seen as repressive agents of established society. Thus the 'play within a play' and the play itself are brought together.

All this and plenty of laughs too. All the right targets come in for ridicule: local councillors, (especially the trendy labourite); the pompous, self-important mayor; shrinks, journalists and professional 'youth workers'.

A jolly good effort.

Steve.

Yers, and frightfully Brechtian too.....

Feminist theatre group 'Siren' should be returning soon-- no excuse is valid for missing them! Watch out for date/details in P.P. We also went to visit the Poison Girls when we were in London, and when I find out when the Caves are free, it's hoped that we can book 'em for some time late October/November to play here again.

Page 6..... a sort of review.....CRASS: "CHRIST-- THE ALBUM"

"CHRIST"-- a double box set with a 12"x12" booklet containing lyrics, articles, contact addresses for organisations like Release and the NCCL, as well as the usual excellent poster. And all this for a fiver.

But forget about the toys-- what about the music? Well, after the brilliance of the release previous to this, "Penis Envy", "Christ" is something of a return to the days of "Stations". The cover of the booklet, designed like the old 'Pelican' book covers, proclaims "A series of shock slogans and mindless token tantrums", no doubt to save anybody else from saying it first. But it's not strictly true. The usual targets are attacked (T.V., family, the Bomb etc) and why not?? They're all valid as long as they exist. But....

I played "Penis Envy" immediately after listening to "Christ", and the latter sounds like a parody of anger in comparison to the sheer fury, energy and inspiration of the former. It's a shame that "Penis Envy" has received less exposure than the other efforts because it is the most powerful statement Crass have made outside of the 7"ers. Their 'token boiler' album?

Sides three and four contain live and archive material, with old favourites like "Banned from the Roxy", "Punk is Dead" and "Do They Owe us a Living?"-- just in case you missed them the first and second times around. After this return to the usual formula, are we to expect every Crass album to be the same old songs re-hashed in different permutations and sleeves? 'Cause it's starting to wear a bit thin. Next: "Crass Live at Budokan" triple concept album with lyrics in 32 languages, a do-it-yourself cut-out-and-keep commune kit, a 50-page full-colour booklet on the life of the 12th century Chinese philosopher Shio T'zu.....oh-- and a poster. Be the first kid on your block to own this fabulous product.

And if you don't have a copy of "Penis Envy", go out and buy/steal one at the first opportunity.

melita (cynici)

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

AFTER LAST MONDAY'S abortive attempt to hold our weekly meeting in the Chatsworth (we had been ousted by Mrs Kronstadt-Partridge's olde tyme dancing night), we will be returning to Mr Cherry's in future. Apologies to those of you who live over the other side of town and can't easily get over here, but we can think of no other suitable venue. Anyway, for those of you who are interested, we meet every monday at 9:30pm at Cherry's pub along Marina. Bring ideas, articles, money etc etc.

Not a lot's been happening at all.....everything's pretty boring in fact. So let's liven things up a bit! Monday's meeting will be to fix a date for our Great DHSS Party-- all those into brightening the day up for the claimants who have to sit around at Heron House for hours on end, come along to the meeting and we'll discuss tactics, jelly, party hats etc etc.

POISON PEN is printed & published by Hastings Free Press; printed by Steve, typed by me.

"...THE PEN WAS POISONED!"

FRIDAY,
10th
DEC.
1982

A DRAMA IN
12 PAGES

WRITTEN
BY

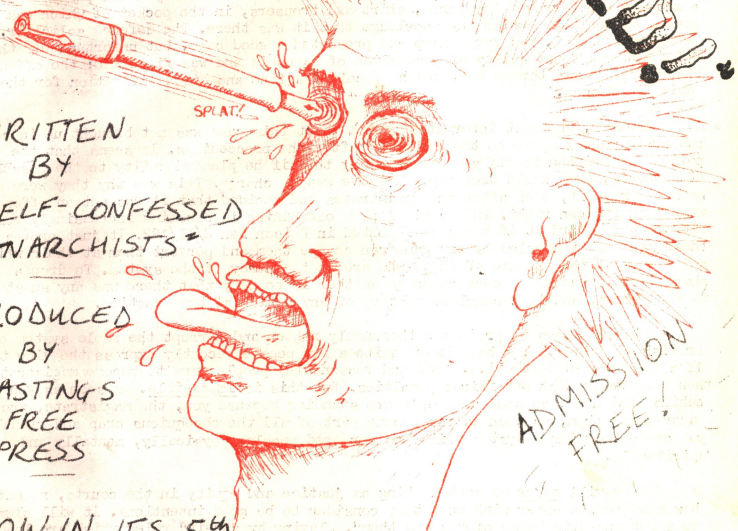
"SELF-CONFESSED
ANARCHISTS"

PRODUCED
BY

HASTINGS
FREE
PRESS

NOW IN ITS 5th
GLORIOUS YEAR!

FEATURING: NEW DASS HOUSING REGULATIONS •
IRISH GENERAL ERECTION • BRITISH JUSTICE - A
CONTRADICTION IN TERMS • NEWS • VIEWS •
» AND MORE! «



ADMISSION
FREE!

IT'S A BARGAIN?:::

A young man appeared in court at Hastings on Tuesday, charged with possession of cannabis and an offensive weapon, and drunken driving. He pleaded not guilty to the first and guilty to the other two. The 'offensive weapon' was a small building support which was conveniently designed so that it could double up as a makeshift knuckleduster, and the first move the defending solicitor made was to put to the court that this was not per se an offensive weapon, which took the bench, chaired by one Mr Judge (yes, honestly!), quite a while to agree with when they adjourned to make their decision. Nevertheless, the prosecuting solicitor refused to withdraw the charge, and tried desperately to pin the charge on the defendant.

The defence case was that the accused had gone to a fancy dress party dressed as a mod and had borrowed the parka, shirt and trousers, in the pocket of which was the grass, although he denied any knowledge that it was there. The defence solicitor, a chap called Ball, was very sharp and presented a good case, but unfortunately the defendant was found guilty of possession of cannabis and was fined £50; the offensive weapon charge was thrown out, and he received a fine and disqualification for the driving offence.

However, the most interesting point about this case was not brought up in court, but arose when I spoke to the defendant after the proceedings. It seems that the police had written to his solicitor saying that if he pleaded guilty to the possession of cannabis, they would drop the offensive weapon charge. This was why they were so keen to press it, even after the magistrates had decided that it was not an offensive weapon in its own right. This sort of plea bargaining is becoming increasingly common: witness the Oxford St 48 cases as reported in Poison Pen 2/11/82. It just proves how those who make the rules of the game can change them and pervert them at their whim, and always at the expense of those who are at the mercy of the system. To drop a charge just to secure a conviction on another is to deny that there was any substance to the former, and is a complete mockery of any notion of true justice.

This only goes to prove how thoroughly rotten and corrupt the whole system of British 'justice' is. I have heard quite a few people recently express the view that if a few more 'decent' (i.e. good and reasonable) people were to become magistrates, then they would dish out fairer penalties. But this is impossible. As soon as you sit behind that desk, as soon as people are standing because you, the magistrate, are addressing them, as soon as you become part of all the obsequious crap and ritual, you are supporting a system which has murdered people, physically, mentally and spiritually.

There will never be such a thing as justice and equity in the courts, no matter how many people enter with what they consider to be good intentions. It will always be a cut-and-dried case of "us and them", playing by "their" rules which are loaded in "their" favour. Do-gooding reformists are not the answer. I'll give you three guesses.

melita.

oooooooooooooooo

H.U.C.A.C. LOSES ITS FUNDING:::

Anyone remember Hastings Unemployed & Claimants' Advice Centre?? Well, we've just heard this week that this fine quango will lose its funding from our beloved government after Christmas. When all the 'workers' and 'managers' are then thrown onto the scrap-heap with all the rest of us, will this mean that the Centre is run on a democratic collective basis? Or will the managers retain their precious swivel chairs and desks while they await the Urban Aid grant they expect in April? Now they've actually lost the MSC money, they don't have to worry about the government continually looking over their proverbial shoulder, but probably all this will mean is that they don't have to pretend they don't know that the Communist Party is having a jumble there (see P.P. 15th Oct.). There will be much disappointment in certain quarters-- the real shame is that the Centre took the government line so firmly right from the start; no doubt the main thing the employees will miss is their precious wages.

M.T. Hatcher.

And now here are some thoughts on..... ③

YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence in the past couple of years has increased that much that people are frightened to go out on the streets, which is quite disturbing seeing as that people should be able to, without getting knifed or what have you.

Personally I think the media and the government between them have caused it, because as you know, the media is a very large branch of the government's tree and consists of radio, television, papers etc., which are always putting arse-licking advertisements out like "Join the Army-- it's a tough man's job", and "Buy these clothes for tough little teenagers"-- you know the type of shit I mean. And the way a lot of kids are brought up, start thinking "Ahh this must be the way I've got to be, tough and hard!"

And to make it worse there are cunts like nazis and communist parties who exploit youth to use them and brainwash them into making them believe that they must boot some fucker's head who opposes the system of nazis or communism or vice versa, or any other party.

And the things that make me sick are youth cult riots-- kids who are brain-washed into thinking they must defend their so-called youth cult cause by booting some fucker who's in a different cult.

And a lot of these people who do it are punks who claim to be against systems and wars and yet they are being a system and a violent one at that by so-called defending their youth cult; it's just like English armies defending against German armies and all it leads to is mindless suffering.

Sure, you can belong to a youth cult (I've been a punk for 5 years now-- more anarchist nowadays, but still punk), but what's all the fighting for? It's only music for shit's sake, so why don't you get it into your head that violence and machismo are acceptable to the system as they can be controlled; but trying to beat them with anarchy and protest is a threat, e.g. Oxford St. 48.

Cheers to the London Workers' Group for the following 4 pages.....

So anyone who might be reading this who is violent, just think about it and tell the bastard to fuck off coz you don't wanna hear no more, coz while you're smashing someone's head, they're building bombs and making bullets and laughing right in your face.

@ & Peace....Destroy power.....Mike Spike.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Anybody got anything to say to that?????

And now we leap onto quite a different topic.....

FOOD FOR THOUGHT!!!!

Patrons of Nature's Way 'health' shops, well,

I am certain, be interested to hear of free gifts this chain is now adding to its food.

A colleague of mine recently discovered some unwelcome guests in a packet of rice, in the shape of live weevils, which may be a gastronomic delight in some quarters, but would strike dismay into the heart of a devout vegetarian upon discovering that s/he is masticating a gobful of buggy-boos.

Then I found three small objects in a packet of kidney beans-- not bugs this time, but anonymous brown pills. Ooh-err-- what could they be? My customary scientific curiosity was thwarted by visions of racing off to the loo every five minutes should they be a concoction for the liberation of the bowels. I returned them to the shop, where they caused as much mystery as they did to me. So take caution, dear reader, and examine carefully the contents of your plate, because things are not always as they seem..... Ugg-Lee-Bugg.

WHOSE BENEFIT ?

CHANGES IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION Starting in October newly-unemployed people will no longer have to register at a Job Centre before claiming benefits from the DHSS or DoE. This is part of the moves to sell off or close Job Centres. Instead, there will be a new system of

AVAILABILITY TESTING. The burden will now be on you to prove to the dole office, firstly that you are 'genuinely' available for work, and secondly that you are 'genuinely' looking for a job. This will give them much more power. When you first sign on you will be asked "Would you take any full time job which you can do?". If you say 'no', you will be asked to fill in an Availability Form. You should answer the questions on this about acceptable wages, hours and travelling distance, in as general a way as possible - your answers may be used to stop benefit. Special attention will be given to single parents and women with children, who will have to prove that they have already made arrangements for someone to look after the kids should they be offered a job. While you are filling in this form, the clerk will be looking you over as part of a programme of

ETHNIC MONITORING. This is a race check. You will either be handed a card asking your place of origin, or else visually assessed and colour-coded by the counter-clerk. This is similar to the checks being made from now on in hospitals, where you may be required to produce proof of your nationality, such as a passport. There are five categories - West Indian/African, Asian, White, Other or Refusal. You can insist you are put down as 'Refusal' if you wish.

POSTAL CLAIMS. You will no longer get an interview at the DHSS. Instead, the dole office will give you another, even longer, form (a B1PC) to fill in and send off to your local SS office. This may sound great - no waiting or queueing. BUT... the form is 8 pages long with 109 questions. If you fill it in wrongly, it will be sent back for you to do again. You won't get any money until it's right. In a recent tryout, only 1 person in 20 did it correctly. You will be asked about your relationship to other people in your household. Beware - for example, if you say your landlord is a relative, or that a person of the opposite sex who isn't a dependent lives in the household it can lead to even longer delays and reductions in benefit. (Still it's not all bad - 1000 of the bastards will lose their jobs as a result of this change).

COMPUTERISATION. Over the next few years, the DHSS system is to be computerised. Until this change is finished, there will be

utter bureaucratic chaos. It's already next to impossible to get a straight answer to any question at the DHSS. Doing everything by post will make it hard to get any answers at all. Once the system is complete, your record will be instantly available, anywhere in the country, to the DHSS, other government departments and the police. Naturally, no safeguards have been announced for correcting mistakes in your record. Perhaps the most important change is the one even DHSS officials haven't been given adequate details about. They call it

UNIFIED HOUSING BENEFIT. From November 22nd, council tenants will no longer receive money for rent and rates from the DHSS. Instead, it will be paid direct to the council. It is estimated that 2 million households will be worse off as a result. For example, those who claim rate rebates from the council rather than supplementary allowance to cover the rates. It will be actual money out of everyone's pockets (people won't be able to pay heating bills in the winter using rent money.) For many council tenants the only way they have of forcing councils to carry out essential repairs and services has been to withhold rent. This and rent strikes will now be impossible.

From next April the scheme will be extended to claimants in private rented accommodation and homeowners. Unlike council tenants money will still be paid to them not their landlords. But it will be paid out by the council not the DHSS. From December the DHSS will be handing over to councils details of people claiming rent or rates in their area. Claimants will have to fill out a form for the council detailing what rent and rates they pay. As the councils integrate the DHSS records into their own we will see 1) complete chaos to start with and many people accidentally cut off while its all sorted out 2) a spate of prosecutions as many people are caught out either claiming more rent and rates from the DHSS than they're actually paying (using forged rent books), or more rate rebate than they're entitled to. Be warned! The scheme replaces all rent and rate rebate schemes as well as Supplementary Benefit payments.

TAXATION OF BENEFITS. This has already started - the only difference it makes is that you cannot claim a tax rebate as soon as you become unemployed. Most people's benefits are too low to be liable for tax. However in future if the lower tax level isn't raised, benefits will creep over it as they slowly rise, and claimants will have to repay tax due when they finally get a job.

SICKNESS CLAIMS.

The system of 'self-certification' which was introduced earlier this year is the 'soft' edge of a new policy for dealing with sickness claims. This is aimed at drastically reducing the number of days 'lost' through people going off sick. The hard edge is that from next April, you will have to convince your employer that you are genuinely sick. They will be responsible for paying the first 6 weeks benefit, and so will have every incentive to scrutinise your claim to be sick very closely — and keep records of how often and why you're sick. And of course small companies will often treat their obligation to pay you with the same contempt that they treat minimum wage requirements, equal pay requirements, Health and Safety standards etc. This is part of the purpose of these changes.

SPECIAL CLAIMS CONTROL UNITS. The government has steadily increased the number of unemployment benefit review officers, fraud officers, liable relative officers

(chasing 'defaulting' husbands or wives for maintenance) and special investigators attached to the local office or group of offices. But these have been completely snowed under by the volume of claims to be chased. The latest innovation is the Special Claims Control Unit. These are teams of special investigators (often ex-policemen) who move from office to office to 'blitz' claims. The idea is that they systematically investigate 1 in every 20 claims, looking particularly at women, long-term claimants, people with skills who might be fiddling etc. Houses are watched, neighbours are questioned and so forth. If they have any grounds for suspicion, however feeble or unjustified, you will be called for interview. (They may try to prevent you taking a friend with you.) There, if they haven't proof of wrongdoing, they will try to intimidate you into making a statement or withdrawing your claim. Often they will try to persuade you that you are in the wrong when you are not, and that to 'regularise' your position you should sign off and make a new claim. This is a trick — if you do, it will be taken as an admission that you were fiddling. The purpose of groups like these is to force long-term claimants off the register to join the 17% of people already not bothering to sign on.

Effects

These changes are meant to cope with the extra workload on the DHSS and Department of Employment. But they are much more than a reorganisation. They are an attempt to widen the division between those with jobs and those without. They are also intended to divide those with some prospect of getting a job, from those with no hope at all.

The new policy admits that unemployment not only has to be managed, but that the unemployed have to be controlled. The unemployed and unwaged will be kept in their place. Benefits will not be a right, but a privilege.

Despite the claim that they will make the system more rational, the new regulations will cause a lot of confusion. The government is reluctant to tell DHSS and DoE staff what is happening because they know most of them will oppose the new measures. The changes will put more pressure on them, which will mean a worse service, more hassles, waiting and aggravation for us.

The new regulations are meant to cut down on the amount of money claimed for in benefits. If you found, when you had a job, that you were working harder for less, now that you're unemployed you'll be getting even less, and being hassled harder. What they call 'fiddles' or 'fraud' are an important way of keeping up a reasonable standard of living, as the real value of benefits falls.

Effectiveness

Some people have come to realise that being jobless is not the worst thing that can happen to them. Despite the lack of money, it's possible to spend time in a more worthwhile way than when at work. We don't have to accept that being out of work is a punishment. To see life on the dole as the ultimate horror serves only to keep everyone in misery. That is the idea. When unemployed people are able to enjoy themselves and refuse to be punished for being jobless, it disrupts the function of unemployment, which is to keep wages down and people in their place.

If a worker complains about low wages or bad conditions, they're told that plenty of others want the job. But people can and will find successful ways of surviving on the dole. Then it becomes easier to tell them to stuff their jobs. The new regulations are meant to scare us, just as the threat of redundancy threatens those in work. Faced with these latest attempts to deepen the divisions between 'workers' and 'the rest', it is in the interests of us all to resist them.

why should we accept falling living standards

Bosses 'give' us jobs so we can make money for them. Obviously not all jobs make money directly — for example, office jobs organising other peoples work, state employment in essential services which aren't profitable (health, education etc.), or the apparatus of social discipline and death (law and war). But as long as profits are high there's plenty of work — even jobs doing nothing at all useful. When profits are low however, bosses start weeding out those people that they can no longer afford, whose jobs don't make enough money. All over the world thats been happening since the late sixties — the result is mass unemployment.

Mass unemployment is nothing new. It was constant in Britain from 1920, until 1940 and jobs for everyone making war. After the war we had 'Full Employment'. 'Full' meant only a few hundred thousand unemployed. The Welfare State benefit system was designed as a safety net for this relatively small number of people. Till the sixties the number of jobs grew. Larger numbers of women and young people than ever before found relatively well paid work, especially in the expanding state and service sectors. In the fifties immigration was encouraged to fill low paid and 'dirty' jobs. Wages rose and benefits followed.

Of course not everyone was usefully employed or well paid. The theory however was that a high level of steady, comparatively well paid work led to social stability and permanent expansion. This was disproved at the end of the sixties, which saw a whole series of struggles, not about poverty, but because having been given a taste of a better life people wanted more. While profits were high it had been easy to buy off wage militancy and raise benefits. But militancy had reached the point at which it bit into the bosses share of the cake. And simultaneously profits began to drop as the boom ended. Immigration was ended, and women youth and ethnic minorities found themselves first out into the slowly expanding dole queues.

Financially those were the good old days for claimants. Benefits were worth more than they had ever been. (Indeed they'd overtaken many low paid workers wages). On the negative side unemployment was still low enough for the dole office and SS to be able to police claims — forcing the unemployed into low paid jobs, trapping women under the cohabitation rules etc.

Twelve years later the situation is totally reversed. Benefits have dropped to bare subsistence levels. (In 1978 20% of workers would have been better off on the dole. Today, after the ending of earnings related supplement and last years 5% cut only 4% would be better off. This despite the fact that 7 million families are living below the official poverty line.) On the other side mass unemployment has swamped the dole and SS with too many claims to police. With over a million long term unemployed the system is on the verge of collapse, and benefit offices are striking over workloads. The Welfare State, designed for times of low use and high profits is breaking down.

For the bosses the need is to redesign the system on the basis of mass unemployment. The first stage of this — widening the gap between those with jobs and the 'poor' — is almost accomplished. For ten years every government has been preoccupied with reducing 'surplus employment', reducing state expenditure and holding wages down. The Tories didn't introduce monetarism (the Callaghan govt. did), and nor did they 'create' mass unemployment. They have happily encouraged it however — to maintain incentives to work harder for less money, by making benefits as unattractive as possible. To use the fear of unemployment to chip away at the safeguards and benefits workers have won in the past. For Tories disciplining the poor is a matter of 'law and order'. More Fraud Squad officers, more riot trained police thugs, longer sentences. In the future they promise more of the same — more cuts, more stick for those who protest, more of the 'discipline of the market-place' until the 'upturn' arrives, and the economy takes off with low paid jobs for all.

Labour offer us the other half of the double act. The Tories call for lower wage settlements — Foot calls for an 'understanding' on pay. While the Tories threaten to dismantle the Welfare State, Labour promise to 'save' it — but of course there won't be money to restore cuts or improve it. Labour offer a fair deal for claimants — no more cuts in benefit. But of course there won't be money to raise them above bare subsistence levels. Labour promise an 'end' to unemployment, or at least a reduction to one million over five years. What they're offering is only another shortlived economic reflation, with jobs for a year or two building houses or roads or drains, before the project ends (North sea gas conversions anyone?) or the money runs out in another economic downturn. For Labour disciplining the poor means more social workers and more benefit staff. It means more Govt./TUC unemployment centres with paid workers, treating claimants as individual 'cases' with problems. It means more resources into keeping claimants isolated and impotent, more help for them to 'cope' with poverty. Better that than more police? Well of course welfare cops smile as they prosecute 'scroungers', or take the kids into care.

Mass unemployment is here to stay. Its quite conceivable that levels may drop at some time, its quite certain that the fall will only be temporary. There's no sign today of any recovery — and after years of decline Britains in the worst possible state to benefit from one if it came. We have to be clear about it. Mass poverty is here to stay and so is the discipline needed to police it. Whether you're wacked in the guts by your Tory 'Community Policeman' or just nauseated by your smiling Labour 'Community Worker' the only choice is to vomit.

Some advice

1 Don't be too worried. The new regulations will make things harder but making us afraid is just what they want.

Carry on claiming for what you need.

2 Find out what is happening. Make contact with others who are claiming. Pass this information around and discuss it. How have others overcome problems? Try to publicise the answers.

Find out when and what your local DHSS is clamping down on (read the local papers). How are they conducting the investigations and interviews?

3 Keep covered. If possible try to work together. Take a friend to any interview. Say as little as possible. (Don't answer questions if you have no change of circumstances to report.)

If you live with others who are claiming, make sure you've got all your facts and stories straight. Many people are pressured into withdrawing valid claims by the DHSS twisting what you have said and making you think you are in the wrong.

Tell others if you see people snooping around, and refuse to answer 'innocent' questions from strangers about your friends, e.g. where they are.

4 Other implications. In the winter some people use their rent allowance to pay the heating bills. As this now becomes impossible, cut-offs and harassment will rise. Again, get together with people to oppose this, and argue directly with the LEB and Gas Board workers who carry out the cut-offs. If this doesn't work, do all you can to stop them.

5 Be careful. If you fiddle, be more cautious. Some fiddles don't work any more, such as those involving rent.

If you do odd jobs, be careful about using your real name. Watch out for suspicious questions from would-be customers.

6 Don't be conned.

Being unemployed is a fact of the present and the future. Don't be fooled into thinking that a vote at the next election will make things better. No political party or campaign can guarantee you a job. You must start fighting for more money and less hassles for yourself as an unemployed or unwaged person — not just as someone who is forced to accept the next offer of a job.

PRODUCED BY THE LONDON WORKERS GROUP.



More copies can be obtained from

Box 1746
c/o Little &
C1 Metropolitan Wharf
Wapping Wall
London E.1
Single Copies Free (Send S.A.E.)
Bulk Orders £2 per 100 post free.

And here's someone who's already suffering from complications thanks to the new housing payments scheme.....see if you can work it out!

FALLING FOUL OF THE SYSTEM:::::

When I first started drawing DHSS benefit I asked if they would pay my rent direct to the Council to save me the trouble. I was told that they would rather I paid the rent, so for the past year I have regularly paid my own rent.

One of the benefits of regular payment to the Council and no arrears is that we get four weeks rent free each year. So when the government decided that Council tenants should have their rents paid direct to the Council by DHSS, the question of the rent-free weeks came up.

Because the DHSS pays my rent over a 52-week year, they underpay me each week by a couple of quid which has to come out of my personal allowance, but is actually a method of saving as long as I do not fall behind in the rent, because the DHSS still gives me the rent even during the rent-free weeks.

But now with this new scheme I wanted to know whether I would get the money back which I had already paid to the Council out of my personal allowance towards the free weeks.

When I enquired I was told that there was no provision at the moment to repay anyone. After further enquiries I was told that I would get the money back, which of course cheered me up, so I didn't bother any more until the new scheme came into operation.

I paid my last week's rent on time, and was notified a few days later that the Council wanted my rent book to bring it up to date. When I got it back it stated that I had £71.00 credit, so I 'phoned the Council and asked when I would receive the Giro. They told me that because I still have to pay 74p water rates, they would keep the money and use it to pay this until it ran out. When I said that I didn't want to do it that way, and I would rather have the money back, I was informed that I would have to write to the Borough Housing Officer to ask for it back. This I did straight away.

Housing capers cont'd.....

9 NEWS HOWARD:::::

I also wondered why I had to pay my water rates separately, so I 'phoned the DHSS, and was told that if there wasn't enough in my rent or rates allowance, I had to pay it out of my personal allowance. I was told that I had been doing it in this way all along anyway, with which I disagreed, and was then told that I had been, and I was wrong!

By this time I was a little bit annoyed, so I went for a walk. Later I again tackled the DHSS about my allowances and in the end was told by the same person as during the previous encounter in the morning that I should not have to pay my water rates separately (ha-ha cock-up!) and that she would get in touch with the Council toot sweet.

What joy! Can you imagine how I felt? Anyway, I have yet to hear what will happen but I'll keep you informed.

Another Poor Claimant.

~~~~~

No doubt we will be hearing more from other claimants caught up in the bureaucracy of the new system, which even those supposed to implement it do not fully understand.....

If you have any tales of your own, write in and let readers know. We would be interested to hear the opinions of the people who are supposed to be carrying the thing out.

Write to us on this or any other topic  
c/o HFP, 92 London Rd, St Lenny-on-Sea, Sx.

WHY was eager-beaver Babs Veness, leading lady of the Hastings Observer editorial team (all three of them), seen dashing out of court one at Hastings Magistrates on Monday, whiskers twitching, bright-tailed and bushy-eyed??

Was there a riot in the court next door? Had Barrie Brown come clean at last? Or had a senile magistrate sentenced a shoplifter to death?

Oh no. Ms Veness was in fact on the trail of a story so momentous, so earth-shattering, that it would remain on the lips of the populace for years to come. Yes! The Hastings Observer strikes again! It's one of their 'doggy stories'. Never mind the real news, never mind all the dodgy deals and corruption in the town-- what we want is doggy stories, old lady stories, and-- even better-- old lady and doggy stories! After all, Babs didn't get where she is today by bothering to report any important stories, did she?

Furry Joe.

~~~~~

If you're the sort of frightfully naughty person who would be tempted to go shop-lifting, take heed of this warning and steer clear of Woolies-- they've been pretty hot on catching people nicking recently, judging by the numbers who've appeared in court over the past few days...so watch it!

~~~~~

" 'If you're not busy being born you're busy buying.'

All the sales girls in the flash boutiques are made to dress the same and have the same make-up, representing the 1940's. In fashion as in everything else, capitalism can only go backwards-- they've nowhere to go-- they're dead.

The future is ours.

Life is so boring there is nothing to do except spend all our wages on the latest skirt or shirt.

Brothers and Sisters, what are your real desires?

Sit in the drugstore, look distant, empty, bored, drinking some tasteless coffee? or perhaps BLOW IT UP OR BURN IT DOWN. The only thing you can do with modern slavehouses-- called boutiques-- IS WRECK THEM. You can't reform profit capitalism and inhumanity. Just kick it till it breaks.

Revolution."

Angry Brigade '71.

THE SAME OLD BLARNEY

We are constantly given examples of how corrupt and faceless politicians are the world over; not without exception are those in Southern Ireland, as the recent general election there showed. Particularly farcical was the way the two party leaders used the situation in Northern Ireland as a platform for a personal slanging match, when neither could care fucking less about the people living there, or in their own neck of the woods either.

The reason Dr Fitzgerald's victory is welcomed here is because he seems likely to toady that much more to Thatcher and co's demands of more repressive measures in the Irish Republic, which has its own set of political prisoners and a police force which could learn very little from the R.U.C.

While at the same time nothing is done about the lack of human rights in the North, the people there, in particular the Catholic minority, will still have to content with the unchanging scene of R.U.C. and British army brutality, including murder, torture and smashed-up homes, and the S.A.S. scum who often work in collusion with Loyalist murder gangs. It is hardly surprising that the population of the Catholic ghettos feel they have nobody in their corner, so they turn to the I.R.A. whose methods play right into the hands of the State which they oppose.

To return to the South, which has a constitution that smacks of having been the brainchild of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, all the leaders there offer is empty talk including references to a united Ireland, which would mean the taking over of one repressive state by another. It's a pity the working classes both North and South of all persuasions don't unite . and tell their politicians to get stuffed, but then the set-up there is specifically designed to keep them divided.

Gloria Hayley Loova.

\*\*\*\*\*

Which seems like a suitable juncture at which to write a bit about.....

"MAEVE"--South-East Arts Film Tour:

As usual with the Film Society's Film Tours, it was pretty poorly attended-- no doubt all those who did not go were anticipating its showing on Channel 4 in the new year. The story is based around the central character, Maev Sweeny's return to Belfast to visit her Republican family, using flashbacks to depict her childhood and teenage years. Unfortunately, much of the dialogue was virtually inaudible, from a combination of thick accents (especially on her father's part) and poor sound. This often meant.....

PTO.....



Page II....Maeve cont'd.....

.....that the thread of the plot was lost at times by many viewers, myself included. The main point of the film was the conflicts within the minds of the inhabitants towards what was going on around them, many trying to relate it to past events.

Maeve rejects the fiercely Republican views of her erstwhile boyfriend because they do not make any provision for the struggle for the liberation of women. There were some nice subtle touches throughout the film which I liked, for example the incident in which young Maeve is sitting in her father's van in a loyalist area, and a man comes over to question her about the Southern Irish number plate. Whilst he is doing this, there is a fluttering Union Jack reflected on the windscreen.

The Brit Army is portrayed realistically as macho, bullying and oppressive; the paranoia surrounding The Knock At The Door was well and subtly expressed. But also the hope and determination of the people to carry on as normal a life as possible came over very strongly.

It was an enjoyable and stimulating film, which would have been even more so if one could have heard the dialogue properly, a problem which will no doubt be remedied when it is shown on Channel 4. If you missed it at the Film Society, try to get to see "Maeve" on t.v.

melita.

#####

NOT a film review.....

THE HYPE

There's no Royal Wedding, Royal Brat, war or other Joyous Occasion of a similar nature around at the moment with which the media can bombard us to make us forget about real life, injustice and the million-and-one other things wrong with this world of ours. So what's the Hype? A film, of all things. There is virtually nowhere to which one can escape without a visual and aural barrage of something called "E.T."

I heard a reviewer on Radio 4 the other day singing its praises, and recommending that viewers take a handkerchief with them when they see it-- that's right, cry for something which does not exist, because if we start crying about reality, then we might just be pushed into the awkward situation of having to question ourselves and our actions. Cry at the thought of the millions of dollars spent on making the film; cry at the thought of the millions of dollars and pounds the suckers will pay out so they can forget the reality which surrounds them; cry for the millions that have been spent on useless advertising; cry, because while all this is going on there are millions in poverty and starving because of our greed, and cry, because by forgetting this, we keep ourselves from having to commit ourselves to positive action.

We don't need the Hype. The choice is yours.



Here are some more jolly and cheapo recipes which won't stick to the frying pan this time: (honest!).....

ARROZ A LA CUBANA -- a Spanish dish which will help you lose friends and influence people.....

8oz rice.....2 cloves garlic, whole.....2 cloves garlic, crushed....olive oil (or oil, if you prefer).....salt.....suggested seasonings: bayleaf, saffron.

Gently cook the rice with the whole garlic cloves in an abundance of water in a covered pot for 12-15 minutes. Drain and rinse in cold water. Fry the minced garlic gently in oil. Add the rice. Cook, stirring for a few minutes. Season; serve with fried eggs and fried tomato slices.

Which you can follow with.....

#### BRAZILIAN BEER BICCHIES

1lb flour.....4oz sugar.....4oz butter.....4 tablespoons of beer.....pinch of bicarb...  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 teaspoon cinnamon.

Knead all the ingredients together to make a thick dough. Divide into balls and flatten between your palms. Arrange on a buttered baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes @ 175 degrees C (350 F) or gas 4. Leave to cool on a rack.  
I have made some of these and I reckon they'd be rather nice with a few dried fruits e.g. sultanas chunked in, and maybe replace the beer with brandy or something like that. They're quite edible anyway..... and cheap!

~~~~~

Personal column..... Best wishes to Pete for his court appearance on Monday..... and all at P.P. hope Betty's sick head soon returns (cryptic huh?).....

Next Thursday at the Unemployed Centre-- drama and improvisation group. Lots of fun and laffs..... 7:30pm.

Nosebag has just informed me what I wrote about "Maevie" is stupid coz I said I lost the thread of the plot and then proceeded to say what the main point of the story was.....oh bah! never mind, I know what I meant.....I think.....

Jazz Caverners being funky every Tuesday evening at Mr Cherry's don't forget! and Hastings @'s will be creating their usual havoc & kaos there on Sunday nights 9:30....

There will be a demo at Club Row in London against the sale of animals there to vivisectionists on Sunday 19th Dec. Animal Aid are organising a coach, the cost of which will be at maximum £3, depending on how many people go. Get in touch with P.P. if you're interested.

COME ON! We want ideas for a Poison Pen New Year's Honours List-- what would YOU like to give your least favourite politician?? Suitable awards for media persons, local deities etc etc all welcome. Just jot your ideas onto a scrap of paper and give them to us. Also any ideas about next year's Big Things...gaze into your crystal balls and give us your predictions.

There will be a christmas party at Heron House on Thursday 23rd Dec--bring silly hats, bottles of pop, streamers etc and let's cheer the place up! Also that day, Expandis will be playing at Rumours, if you can tolerate going there.

There hasn't been a P.P. for the past couple of weeks coz nothing's happened and not many of you out there in Readerland have written anything. Pull yer fingers out and get scribbling. Send your articles etc to us c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. Typed by M., P&P by HFP.

Page II....Maevie cont'd.....

.....that the thread of the plot was lost at times by many viewers, myself included. The main point of the film was the conflicts within the minds of the inhabitants towards what was going on around them, many trying to relate it to past events.

Maevie rejects the fiercely Republican views of her erstwhile boyfriend because they do not make any provision for the struggle for the liberation of women. There were some nice subtle touches throughout the film which I liked, for example the incident in which young Maevie is sitting in her father's van in a loyalist area, and a man comes over to question her about the Southern Irish number plate. Whilst he is doing this, there is a fluttering Union Jack reflected on the windscreen.

The Brit Army is portrayed realistically as macho, bullying and oppressive; the paranoia surrounding The Knock At The Door was well and subtly expressed. But also the hope and determination of the people to carry on as normal a life as possible came over very strongly.

It was an enjoyable and stimulating film, which would have been even more so if one could have heard the dialogue properly, a problem which will no doubt be remedied when it is shown on Channel 4. If you missed it at the Film Society, try to get to see "Maevie" on t.v.

melita.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

NOT a film review.....

THE HYPE

There's no Royal Wedding, Royal Brat, war or other Joyous Occasion of a similar nature around at the moment with which the media can bombard us to make us forget about real life, injustice and the million-and-one other things wrong with this world of ours. So what's the Hype? A film, of all things. There is virtually nowhere to which one can escape without a visual and aural barrage of something called "E.T."

I heard a reviewer on Radio 4 the other day singing its praises, and recommending that viewers take a handkerchief with them when they see it-- that's right, cry for something which does not exist, because if we start crying about reality, then we might just be pushed into the awkward situation of having to question ourselves and our actions. Cry at the thought of the millions of dollars spent on making the film; cry at the thought of the millions of dollars and pounds the suckers will pay out so they can forget the reality which surrounds them; cry for the millions that have been spent on useless advertising; cry, because while all this is going on there are millions in poverty and starving because of our greed, and cry, because by forgetting this, we keep ourselves from having to commit ourselves to positive action.

We don't need the Hype. The choice is yours.

Here are some more jolly and cheapo recipes which won't stick to the frying pan this time: (honest!).....

ARROZ A LA CUBANA -- a Spanish dish which will help you lose friends and influence people.....

8oz rice.....2 cloves garlic, whole.....2 cloves garlic, crushed.....olive oil (or oil, if you prefer).....salt.....suggested seasonings: bayleaf, saffron.

Gently cook the rice with the whole garlic cloves in an abundance of water in a covered pot for 12-15 minutes. Drain and rinse in cold water. Fry the minced garlic gently in oil. Add the rice. Cook, stirring for a few minutes. Season; serve with fried eggs and fried tomato slices.

Which you can follow with.....

BRAZILIAN BEER BICCHIES

1lb flour.....4oz sugar.....4oz butter.....4 tablespoons of beer.....pinch of bicarb...
 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 teaspoon cinnamon.

Knead all the ingredients together to make a thick dough. Divide into balls and flatten between your palms. Arrange on a buttered baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes @ 175 degrees C (350 F) or gas 4. Leave to cool on a rack.
I have made some of these and I reckon they'd be rather nice with a few dried fruits e.g. sultanas chucked in, and maybe replace the beer with brandy or something like that. They're quite edible anyway..... and cheap!

~~~~~

Personal column..... Best wishes to Pete for his court appearance on Monday..... and all at P.P. hope Betty's sick head soon returns (cryptic huh?).....

Next Thursday at the Unemployed Centre-- drama and improvisation group. Lots of fun and laffs..... 7:30pm.

Nosebag has just informed me what I wrote about "Maave" is stupid coz I said I lost the thread of the plot and then proceeded to say what the main point of the story was.....oh bah! never mind, I know what I meant.....I think.....

Jazz Caverners being funky every Tuesday evening at Mr Cherry's don't forget! and Hastings @'s will be creating their usual havoc & chaos there on Sunday nights 9:30.....

There will be a demo at Club Row in London against the sale of animals there to vivisectionists on Sunday 19th Dec. Animal Aid are organising a coach, the cost of which will be at maximum £3, depending on how many people go. Get in touch with P.P. if you're interested.

COME ON! We want ideas for a Poison Pen New Year's Honours List-- what would YOU like to give your least favourite politician?? Suitable awards for media persons, local deities etc etc all welcome. Just jot your ideas onto a scrap of paper and give them to us. Also any ideas about next year's Big Things...gaze into your crystal balls and give us your predictions.

There will be a christmas party at Heron House on Thursday 23rd Dec--bring silly hats, bottles of pop, streamers etc and let's cheer the place up! Also that day, Expandis will be playing at Rumours, if you can tolerate going there.

There hasn't been a P.P. for the past couple of weeks coz nothing's happened and not many of you out there in Readerland have written anything. Pull yer fingers out and get scribbling. Send your articles etc to us c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. Typed by M., P&P by HFP.



RECEIVED

1st JAN. 1983

here's to.....

anarchy  
in  
'83

THIS WEEK:

DHS PARTY//////ANTI FUR TRADE DEMO LEAFLET//////WHO POISONED PENNY?//////NEW YEAR'S

DISHONOURS LIST//////REVIEW OF 1982//////ETC ETC//////

# CLAIMANTS: SMILE

IN DHSS = SHOCK! HORROR! OOOOH!!!

"BLOODY TROUBLEMAKERS" - DHSS SPOKESOBJECT

No thanks to all the people who said they'd come along and then let us down, a group of us descended on Heron House the day before Christmas Eve. Our mission? To spread a little goodwill and cheer to all the poor claimants who were stuck there that afternoon. Heron House is a pretty depressing place at the best of times, but it seemed like they had gone out of their way to make the claimants feel even more miserable than usual: the whole of the staff area of the building was meticulously decorated and festooned, but the area where the claimants are was completely bare (and will someone please turn the upside-down poster the right way up??), lacking even the two balloons they'd put up last year.

So, armed with lemonade, crisps, biccies, cakes and hats, we held our party at DHSS. At first people were a bit confused: some thought it had been organised by the staff there and couldn't figure it out-- a notion we were at great pains to dispel-- others took a bit of time to join in with the spirit of the thing. However, we stayed for an hour, until it shut, and by the end most people seemed really happy, laughing and joking and just talking to each other, which is a very rare occurrence at that place.

Just before we left, we took round the spare food that hadn't been noshed, telling people to take handfuls of it away to ensure the staff didn't get their grotty little fingers on it! All in all, we achieved what we aimed to do-- to brighten things up for a little while, bring people together and make them consider and question a bit more the crappy way in which DHSS treat them, and maybe to annoy the staff just a little. More fool you if you couldn't be bothered to turn up-- don't complain that nothing ever happens 'cause if you're too damn apathetic, that's your problem. Maybe some of you will have stirred yourselves sufficiently by the same time next year for a return visit.....or maybe you won't.....

nelita.



AND NOW WE PRESENT A SPECIAL IN-DEPTH POISON PEN INVESTIGATION:::::

## Madame Penny's Predictions for 1983

Picture the scene.....the room is dark, heavily draped with velvet curtains, the windows fastened to keep out the bleak St Leonards winter. The faces of the guests are lit with expectation and a sixty watt bulb which sways gently in the centre of the ceiling, more as a result of the draught creeping around the curtains than any particular vibration emanating from the mystic Madame Penny. For we were gathered in this room to witness a unique and wondrous event: Madame Penny's predictions for 1983.

Suddenly the room was plunged into dense blackness; the guests gasped with surprise and we awaited the wise words of our seer. Madame Penny rose to her feet, staggered over to a corner of the room closely followed by the aroma of gin, fumbled in a drawer for a few seconds and removed a couple of metal objects, which clinked gently in her hand. Were these the sacred amulets of Mag-a-Ret Fah-cher, the legendary Egyptian diviner? No-- the meter had run out and she had a couple of fifty pences in her hand.....

And so, with illumination returned to the scene, we regained our composure and awaited the words of wisdom.

"Aaaaaahhh.....ooohhhhhhh.....WOOOOAAAAHHHHHH!" groaned Madame Penny, her eyes half closed. She bent down and rubbed the toe she had stubbed on the table-leg as she sat down. We linked hands around the table; the hand to my right smelled strongly of cured meat; that to my left was hard and calloused, the result of many years' wielding of whips, lashes and chains. Madame Penny started to breathe deeply... had she too noticed the aroma of bird droppings which pervaded the atmosphere? But wait-- words began to tumble from those revered lips.....

"January..... Thatcher orders a purge against anarchists....." A gasp leapt involuntarily from my mouth, while I perceived those around me smiling evilly..... Madame Penny continued:".....anyone found with a copy of P.P. about their person will be sent to Labour (party) camps....." No! How can this be true? The seer breathed erratically and resumed her predictions: "Barbara Woodhouse is found guilty of being drunk in charge of six albatrosses, two Labradors and a spaniel, inside the House of Lords." The sour odour of gin assailed my nostrils, and I began to have doubts as to what sort of spirits were inspiring this divination. But her next prediction convinced me that they were heavenly ones: "The Pope sends letter bombs to various family planning clinics over the world.....The weather is cold enough to freeze all parts of a brass monkey....."

What genius! Such a talented woman! At this point her head dropped to her chest; she picked it up and replaced it deftly, then resumed her forecast. She named:"February.....Reagan is on a state visit to Britain but he leaves in disgrace after a banquet, during which he is seated next to Queenie. After she has sat down it is discovered that he has left his opened bottle of Grecian 2000 on her seat.....in the following confusion he spills his bottle of Southern Comfort over Jean Collins, who exclaims "And it's wet too!", which aptly describes the weather."

No-one could fail to admire the lucidity of the vision, the meticulous details in which she drew her prophecies. Pausing only to take a swig out of a cunningly concealed gin bottle, she continued thus: "March.....Thatcher calls a general election.....Tony Benn defects to the SDP--" But our oracle can continue no more for at this juncture she was interrupted by a fit of coughing from one of the guests, a seedy-looking man in dark glasses, nearly collapsing from his chair, spraying mucus and other bodily fluids over the surrounding gathering. After he had been thumped on the back and regained his composure, apologising profusely to Madame Penny, she regained her flow.

PTO.....



From previous page.....

- 4 -

"--and on securing victory moves into no.10 with Shirley Williams....Maggie emigrates to the Falklands while her son Mark gets lost again, this time on an expedition to find the road to Anarchy.....Mark Phillips runs off with Angela Rippon, but the harmony is shattered when she injures him while practising her high kicks.....free easter eggs for pensioners and the unemployed.....weather... wet warm and windy....."

Now the words tumbled from her lips with incredible rapidity. Hardly pausing for breath, she raced on: "...April....a Knightsbridge traffic warden is fined for giving D1 of the Palace a parking ticket after she has parked on double lines..... on the same day it is announced from the palace that she is--" Madame Penny's face suddenly turned an unhealthy shade of heliotrope and the speed with which she had previously delivered her revelations had ceased. Instead, now she uttered the words as if each syllable were stabbing at her vitals, as if each letter were lodged in her lungs, and as if there were an idiom stuck in her lumen. Every few words were punctuated by breathless gasping and coughing, yet she continued, struggling on bravely, determined to bring the news of the forthcoming year to the world.

"...that she is...up the--" More coughing, this time rendering the words unintelligible, but we dare not ask her to repeat them lest her communication with the spirits should be disturbed. "....and is currently using Durex....weather... like.....our politicians.....a nasty shower.....all the way through.....ooooaaahhhh!"

And with that final ejaculation she collapsed to the floor....splat! DEAD! For PENNY WAS POISONED!!!! But who was the culprit? Was it 'Honest' Jack Rock, the seedy turncoat salesman who was also running a nice little aardvark smuggling racket on the side? Or maybe it was 'Sweeney' Brown who ran a dubious boarding establishment and always claimed he fed his guests on the best bacon pie in town-- but how does he explain all the guests who mysteriously disappeared?? Maybe it was 'Pretty Polly' Parrot, the Con-man who'd shit all over you sooner than you could say "pieces of eight". But what about Betty Spendlust, former head of what she described as a "girls' school", but was known to the Vice Squad as something quite different....some of the tales of after-hours spanking sessions made even my hardy blood curdle.....

Who knows?? FIND OUT IN NEXT WEEK'S "POISON PEN" WHEN ALL WILL BE REVEALED!  
PLACE AN ORDER AT YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!!!!

Deirdre & Melita (partners in crime!).

oooooooooooo

#### POISON PEN IN 1982:!!!

Hmm well, I was intending to give some sort of precis of the year, but viewing the stack of issues I have here before me, I think this task could well be more mammoth than I had anticipated, so I'll try not to get carried away and attempt to be as concise as possible. Also, the archives are not complete, so there may be chunks missing from time to time. We shall see.

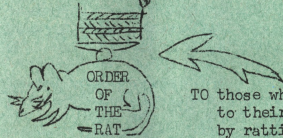
For the populace of this sceptred isle, 1982 will most probably be remembered for its pathetic war and Royal Brat and all the nationalistic hysteria surrounding those events. I suppose you could say we've been suffering from a bit of strife here at P.P. ourselves, though we decided to leave the anarchic task force out of it-- no babies here anyway! Much of the year for us has been characterised by disillusionment and struggling against adverse circumstances; if that sounds a bit negative, I hope we've come out the other end of it with a bit more sass and clarity of vision.

Continued on page 6.....

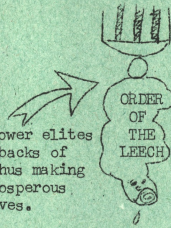


POISON  
PATS

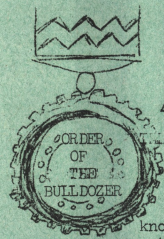
-5-  
NEW YEAR'S  
DISHONOURS LIST



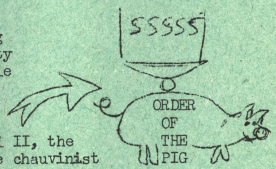
TO those who cause misery to their fellow creatures by ratting on them to the DHSS, who-- needless to say, are most grateful.



TO Royalty and the power elites who live off the backs of the rest of us, thus making Britain a more prosperous place for themselves.

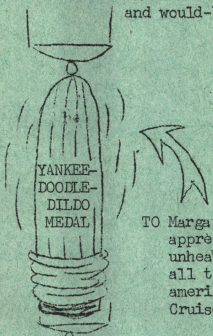


TO the Thames Valley Pigs, who showed us through the T.V. cameras how they set about crushing those menaces to society known as rape victims-- valuable entertainment for all rapists and would-be rapists.

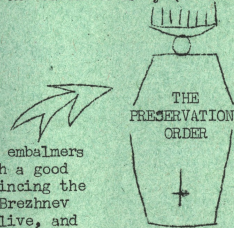


TO Pope John Paul II, the dedicated male chauvinist who is so outspoken about that certain faction of the female species who have the audacity to claim ownership of their own bodies, by taking contraceptives, having abortions etc.

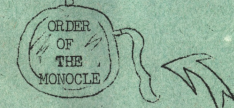
AND to Cllr Barrie Brown, for his inexhaustive efforts in promoting the bacon industry (knowworrimean??)



TO Margaret Thatcher, in appreciation of her unhealthy interest in all things phallic and american (especially Cruise Missiles).



TO the Russian embalmers who did such a good job in convincing the world that Brezhnev was still alive, and only admitted defeat when the pong got too strong.



TO the DHSS sex spies whose tactics against single mothers will save the State millions, and of course create jobs in many child-care centres.



continued from page 4.....

6-  
meanwhile.....

The first major event of the year to reoccupy the pages of Poison Pen was the opening of Hastings Unemployed & Claimants Advice Centre. Re-reading P.P.s from that time, I don't mind admitting I find some of it a trifle embarrassing in retrospect-- would that the high hopes we had for the place had been fulfilled; we gave the maximum moral and practical support, covering intensively all the attempts various people made to stop the project, from the Hastings server to various Labour Party members. Well, you live and learn, don't you?

Our old pal Jack Cook was quite busy in the first half of the year: in January he threatened to sue anybody who might dare to suggest that he had been booted out of the Labour Party. Much to our chagrin, Cookie collected a grand damages from Edith Rodway (ex-proprietor of Unnormality records) for the Poison Pen libel case.

But we cheered up considerably when Cookie joined the SDP-- he refused to speak to us at his election meeting and set his psychopathic bully-boy bodyguards onto us; we heard muttering darkly about "suing for libel" after that week's P.P., the cover of which depicted him as a Nazi.....

So sad to relate that Cookie came last in the election for council in his Ore ward, and it looks as if his political career has finally come to an end as far as Hastings is concerned. Aaaaaaahhhh!

"You must have been well aware of the fact that your publication was grossly defamatory of our member. Normally the contents of a publication such as yours would be treated with the contempt they deserve.....cause maximum agitation amongst pupils.....very substantial damages....defamation....."

Remember that? The above comes from a letter from the National Association of Head Teachers' General Secretary, acting on behalf of Betty Spendlove, ex-head of Lenswood School. In March we printed a story about Mrs S ordering fire doors in school block to be locked, and the ensuing chaos when some of the girls set off the fire bell to highlight the danger of this. "See you in court, Betty!" was our reply, but the gauntlet has not been picked up, because Mrs S knows what we wrote was true. After a minor nervous breakdown following this incident, she retired.  
continued on the next page.....

Dear Poison Pen,

Please excuse this very long letter (N.Tipist). Your invitation for a sort of 'Anti-New Year's Honours List' set me thinking. I mean, the Strangers told there were "No more heroes any more", at the choice! But just before I descended into a self-made depression about the state of world politics, I remembered a little story which will allow me to do one award at least.

The date is Saturday 3rd July 1982. Somewhere in London the Social Democratic Party are holding a press-conference at which Woy (of Warrington) Jenkins is wheeled on to publicly preen as the newly elected 'leader' of the trendy SDPs. "I'm brilliant at the moment of triumph, war!" to the heady atmosphere of sycophancy: his every word is consigned to the mangle of shorthand pads and portable cassette machines. With his 'Montgomery of Alamein' rhetoric in full-sail, our Woy allows the world to share his specious wisdom in a few things political. Crucially, he foresees the election battle ahead and declares the strategy will be "to go for the big breakthrough!"

The effects of this sublime oratory are put on the skids to the lower reaches of ridicule when a young Canadian reporter interrupts to query why Mr Jenkins thinks he ought "to go for the big grapefruit!"

So I therefore wish to formally present the Rt. Hon. Roy Jenkins MP for the Big Grapefruit Award of 1982. I think you must agree that, while its invention was totally accidental and unintentional, that Canada will have provided our Woy with a better epithet than any of us would have unconsciously chosen for him.

Lastly, the grovelling act-- I think P.P. is wonderful and the people who print it are sincere, warm, human beings (ever steady on- Tipist) who deserve their own New Year's honours-- how about the "Frederick of St Leonards" or "Knight Commander of the Order of Mr Cherry's" or "Dame of the Embassy Snooker Championship" (nominee: the key to Ray Beardon's personal executive washroom)? These are, of course, just suggestions and should not be taken to occasion actual physical violence against the server. Keep up the good work, and produce more, too,

Chris Rice. (shrewd pseudo for non-shrewd-people)

The 6th of June saw the national CND demo in London which was brightened up considerably when 400-odd (no, not 400 odd) anarchists marched on Oxford Street. The result of this peaceful action was the SFG busting it up, getting their kicks (literally) on an otherwise hopeless day, and arresting about fifty people. The court cases are still going on; so far some people have been bound over to keep the peace, many have been found guilty of the various fabricated charges-- the cases have been quite extensively reported in Poison Pen.

Apart from all these things, we've been to Greenham Common, anarcho conferences etc etc, and have also built up links with the Brixton @'s, whom we visit quite frequently. Poison Pen /Hastings @ group are now in their fifth year, and we'll continue for as long as we see a future in what we're doing (could be 5 minutes or another 5 years!).

And as for 1983? We hope to have some sort of premises soonish, and also to link up Sussex @'s and get more people involved-- stir yourself out of your apathy! The more people who are involved, the more activities there will be of a subversive/fun nature, so it's up to you. Don't forget we still need written contributions for Poison Pen as well as financial support-- just 5p from each reader would be welcome. Here's hoping it's a fruitful year for us all!

molita.

oooooooooooooooooooo

ON THE BACK PAGE is a leaflet distributed outside Philpot's on the first day of their sale today (Saturday 1st). Philpot's is one of the biggest sellers of furs in the south-east, and a dozen of us braved adverse weather conditions to give out the leaflet to shoppers. The manager was clearly most agitated, telling us that he owned the pavement outside the shop (!) and called the police. We were there to conduct a peaceful demo, not with the intention of causing an obstruction, but it must really have wound up the manager when the cops told us we were perfectly entitled to be standing there. That shop has had a rotten year-- its windows have been smashed, daubed with red paint and goods stolen. How sad. I hope 1983 is even worse for them. We shall return some time to distribute more leaflets.

m.

oooooooooooooooooooo

A PLEA::::: Matthew McFadyen from Angmering, West Sussex, has written to us to ask if we can print his address so that any stray @'s in his area can get in touch with him to form a group. He is involved in animal liberation activities, but there's not much going on round his way at the moment. Anyone interested (not Special Branch) can contact him at "Bieldside", Station Road, Angmering, W.Sussex BN16 4HY.

oooooooooooooooooooo

POISON PEN IS PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY HASTINGS FREE PRESS, 92 LONDON ROAD, ST LEONARDS-ON-SEA, SUSSEX. CONTACT P.P. AT THIS ADDRESS--SEND ARTICLES, MONEY, REVIEWS ETC ETC.

TYPED BY m., BLAME MISTAKES ON THE RPOOF RAEDERS.....

NEXT FRIDAY AT H.U.C.A.C.-- THE RETURN OF COVENT GARDEN COMMUNITY THEATRE GROUP IN A COMEDY ABOUT THE NHS (can't remember what it's called)...probably starts at 7:30 and will cost about 75p/£1 to get in....oh bum I don't know.....



# THE REAL COST OF FURS

Over 700 MILLION animals are mutilated and die, or are killed each year for the fur trade. Many species are nearing extinction from trapping and hunting. Just so that so-called 'civilised' people can wear a luxury and completely unnecessary piece of clothing.

71% of animals trapped are animals that are not required for their fur, and often include endangered species, and even pets.

The fur trade deceives people into believing furs are glamorous. Do you think that barbaric torture and cruelty are glamorous?

Baby seals are clubbed and skinned, frequently alive, and in sight of their mothers, who have been seen to attempt to nurse the bloody remains back to life.

The fur trade is guilty of inflicting unnecessary cruelty and suffering which is intense and prolonged, firstly by using the steel leghold trap, and secondly by exceedingly cruel killing methods on fur farms.

Fur farms can use chloroform to kill their animals; however, they are usually killed by strychnine, causing a rigid painful cramp, but death comes from the inability to breathe. Another cruel method is by vehicle exhaust fumes.

Millions of animals are trapped in vicious steel-toothed legholds and other traps which comprise of steel jaws which slam shut on an animal's leg, holding it in agony and terror until the trapper comes to kill it by beating it or trampling it to death. Sometimes the animals are struggling for weeks and suffer unimaginable pain, anguish, hunger, thirst, freezing cold and exhaustion, and will die from these causes or from its wounds. Sometimes they bite through their own flesh and bone to escape.

To make a fur coat, twelve baby ocelots must be slaughtered, or fifteen lynx, or forty racoon, or sixty-five mink.

PLEASE HELP TO STOP THE AGONY AND HELP TO SAVE OUR RAPIDLY DIMINISHING WILDLIFE. PLEASE BOYCOTT THE FUR TRADE. EXTINCT IS FOREVER!

For any information on animal abuse in whatever form it may take, please contact Hastings & Boxhill Animal Aid at Boxhill 21578X or 217611.





# SOUTH AFRICA

A WHILE AGO Poison Pen carried a few articles on the ways in which Barclays Bank gives financial assistance to the racist regime in South Africa. But of course it's not just Barclays who are involved. South Africa is intimately linked with Western capitalism, not only economically but also politically and strategically; all Western governments claim South Africa as being a part of the "Free World", confirmation-- if such were needed-- that this term is at best meaningless and at worst a gross insult to those who have the misfortune to be the subjects of governments such as South Africa's.

## --Poverty Wages--

The role of South Africa in collaboration with the multi-national corporation Rio-Tinto Zinc as the major supplier of uranium for the West's civil and military nuclear programmes is well known, as are the terrible conditions and low pay of the black mine workers in South African-occupied Namibia. What is perhaps less well known is the number of British companies who take the opportunity granted them by the apartheid system in South Africa to pay black workers poverty wages.

## --Exploitation--

Ten years ago there was a Parliamentary enquiry into the conduct of British firms in South Africa. There is also something called the "EEC Code of Conduct on South Africa" which lays down the minimum wages that should be paid by companies operating in South Africa. The numbers of black workers still being paid less than the figure recommended by the EEC (the Supplemented Living Level or SLL) is proof that such reformist measures are useless and that it is only the revolutionary action of the black population of South Africa that can put an end to the oppression and exploitation of apartheid.

British Electric Traction employs 649 workers below the SLL. The lowest wage: £19.

Dunlop employs 1,025 workers below the SLL. Lowest wage: £25.

Lonrho is mostly involved in mining. It is thought to employ 2,479 mine workers below the SLL. Lowest wage: £10.

Wimpey employs 493 workers below the SLL. Lowest wage: £23.

## --Why is Thatcher silent?--

Other companies which pay these starvation wages are Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds', 'Low & Bonar', 'Furner & Newall' and also, interestingly enough, 'Quinton Hazel', part of the Burmah Group, of which Mr Denis Thatcher is a director. Now then, Mrs Thatcher is very outspoken on the subject of free trades unions and workers' rights in Poland, but I don't recall having once heard her say a word of support for the struggle of the black workers in South Africa. Just like their counterparts in Poland, they face a system which exploits them ruthlessly at work and denies them any political rights or any say in society. Just like the workers of Poland, their attempts to organise resistance to the system have been met by the government with imprisonment, torture and murder.

So why is Thatcher silent when it comes to their cause? Is it just racial prejudice on her part, or has Denis had a quiet word in her ear?

Steve.



### CRUISE MISSILES IN SICILY

On a recent visit to Brixton, I was roped into recording an interview for a local pirate radio station (oops! was I allowed to say that?) with Jean, a Scots @ who is a member of the Catania League against the Cruise Missile base in Comiso, Sicily. Of course, our own Greenham Common is due to receive Cruise in December of this year, but Comiso will be the first place in Europe to site these missiles, which will be arriving in the summer, hence comparisons between the two are very valid. Since not much is heard in the British media about Comiso, all those who are interested in the struggle at Greenham will no doubt be equally interested to read about its counterpart. Here we go.....

m: Firstly, could you give us a bit of background information about the base?

J: The NATO missile base proposed for Comiso is planned to be built for mid-1983. This means that it would be the first missile base of its kind in Europe and it's important to remember this when thinking about the struggle going on at Greenham Common, that it's very much linked to the struggle going on in Italy at the moment against the base at Comiso. Clearly, if the base at Comiso should be prevented, this would have an effect not only on Greenham Common but on all the other proposed bases in the rest of Europe.

m: Greenham Common seems to be stuck right out in the wilds of Berkshire, with a largely middle-class population surrounding it, only small villages, and there doesn't seem to be much opposition to it locally. What's it like in Comiso?

J: Comiso's a town of 28,000 inhabitants in southern Sicily in the Ragusa region. It doesn't have much industry....a few marble saw-mills... it's not poverty-stricken, but there is a lot of unemployment. It's surrounded by about twelve villages, where there is a very high unemployment level, especially in the building industry, and this has been one of the arguments used by the Italian government to convince the local people to accept the base-- that it will bring well-being and jobs to the area.

The fact that jobs are being used as blackmail to accept the base has been shown in the way the local government has been employing, on the one hand, the anti-earthquake laws to put a break on the building industry, by saying that as there's such a danger of earthquakes in the area, that the buildings which had been planned over the next few months had been blocked. At the same time they're planning to house deadly atomic missiles a few miles away. They've now unblocked the anti-seismic laws because they need houses for the American soldiers. 15-20,000 American soldiers and technicians are expected to accompany the base. So when we fight the problem of Comiso or any other missile base, we're not just fighting nuclear warheads-- we're also fighting an army of occupation, which is one of the main points that should be underlined.

m: Of course, the main group which is opposing Greenham Common is the Women's Peace Camp, which has been there for more than a year now, and there was a national demonstration which was held on December 13th. It was very heartening to see so many women involved in an action, because usually in a demonstration there are very few women who take an active part. Is there an equivalent sort of Women's Peace Camp in Sicily?

J: There isn't a Women's Peace Camp-- I have met women in Comiso from the Greenham Common camp, and it was very interesting to talk to them, even though the way we have been working up to now has been very different. As far as the women of Comiso are concerned, it's difficult to meet them: you've got to go to their homes because they're not out in the squares as their husbands are. We've been doing public meetings, but actually to speak to the women, we've had to go round door-by-door. We're not interested in talking to the local architect's wife or policeman's wife particularly, but to talk to the wives of the unemployed, the peasants who are out there in the square in the evening looking for jobs for the next day.....PTO.....



.....or the unemployed builders' wives-- these are the people we've spoken to. They're all absolutely against the base.

m : The action at Greenham Common has all been of a passive, symbolic nature (well, it had at the time of the interview last year); are the women of Comiso taking up a similar stance?

J: The women of Comiso are against the base but they haven't so far shown publicly in the form of any kind of public demonstration that they're against it. I think some of the reasons for this should be gone into, because there have been demonstrations they could have joined in with, but they haven't done so so far. Possibly this is more due to the form the demonstrations have taken....many of the groups who have come to Comiso have been very strange, very different to the kind of people normally seen in the streets of that town. For instance, it's very hot in summer, and people coming from Germany and England find the climate very difficult to bear and take off as many clothes as they can, walk about barefoot in the streets and so on, and that creates immediately a barrier between them and the local people.

There's the language problem, and the general tone which the international peace camp has had: a general aspect of carnival, and the activities have been of a nature in which it's very difficult to imagine local people participating. One action was building a wall of cardboard boxes in front of the base; another was a sit-in...other things have been dressing up, organising debates on pacifism.

But people are not really interested in theoretical discussions: people are interested in how they can prevent the base from a methodological point of view.

m : I mentioned at the start that you are a member of the Catania League. How does your group differ from all the pacifist groups?

J: It doesn't define itself as "pacifist" or "violent" or whatever...it's a group which has grown out of the need to prevent the base in concrete terms. I'm an anarchist, and work with other anarchists in the area who were active from the start. As soon as the actual site of the base was decided upon, the Ragusa anarchists began doing counter-information and public meetings, telling the people not to believe what was being told by the government, that the base would be a bringer of jobs and well-being to the area; on the contrary, that this missile base was a temple of death and anyone who took a job to build it was becoming a gravedigger.

The anarchist group began with working with other extra-parliamentary left groups in the area... they did a common paper and held a conference. But soon problems began to emerge because there came to be two distinct tendencies within the groups: one was to work out extremely complicated analyses of the international situation-- the Western/Eastern blocs, the width, weight, size and so on of the missiles; the other was to try to work out a concrete strategy, to try to reach the local people and help mobilise them to occupy the base, seeing that as the only way to prevent it being built.

We began very modestly, doing bookstalls, exhibitions of anti-militarist pictures and so on, and soon became aware that it was necessary to go more deeply into the analysis that we were making and to reach more people. We made a really big effort at the beginning of the summer to go around all the local villages and Comiso itself, doing public meetings in the village squares, which are places where news circulates at capillary level, and if you want to talk to a town, you've got to go to the square and you know that what you say will spread out.

One thing that we always made sure we did was at the end of the meetings to give out leaflets and use this moment of contact to enter into conversation and actually hear what they had to say. It's basically because of what these people said to us that we carry on with the work we're doing now and we didn't take up the cause as an abstract, ideal thing, but actually found ourselves being drawn into something which obviously we believe strongly, gradually committing ourselves to an engagement which we'd taken on, maybe without realising exactly what it could lead to. PTO.....



Comiso cont'd.....(At this juncture there ensues a discussion about Comiso's history of protest which isn't really relevant to the question in hand, but prompts the question.....)

m: So why haven't they tried to organise like that today?

J: Partly because something like a missile base is abstract, something far-off....it's not the same as being starving or having to find food for one's children. There's also a big responsibility on the side of the political parties of the so-called left: the Defence Minister of Italy is a Socialist, who is colluding with the Americans as far as the base is concerned. The Mayor of Comiso is a Socialist and he originally said he was against the base but now he's been convinced by the Defence Minister. He has also formed a "Peace Committee" in Comiso, but is a promoter of the base and is doing everything he can to provide comfort and well-being for the Americans. That's the Socialist party.

The other party of the left is the biggest Communist party in Europe, and many people still look to them for direction. Obviously they state that they are against the base and they've organised huge peace marches, to Comiso and other cities in Italy. Quite spectacular really, because they have such a huge party machine that they can bring down busloads of party members from the north of Italy or other countries if they want to and create quite a spectacular event. But obviously everyone goes home at the end of the day and nothing changes as far as the base is concerned. They've also collected signatures: in Comiso itself, 12,500 signatures were collected out of a voting population of about 13,000.

m: You obviously don't have much faith in what the political parties are doing. What does the Catania League propose to do?

J: We work with the other Leagues in the area, which have been formed since the end of the summer. We work at Comiso itself because, although it's very important for the base to be fought in all places because it's not a local problem-- it's a national or international problem-- it's also important to be there in Comiso.

Although the League as a form of struggle was proposed by the anarchists, the Leagues themselves are not anarchist groups. They are self-managed social organisms with one aim in view, that is, to prevent the base in Comiso being built. Each League is self-managed, autonomous, apolitical, with one aim in mind, and cannot take up side issues.

When a League forms, the first objective it gives itself is to work outwards, to make itself known, to carry on with the counter-information against the base. Now the analyses we circulated in June/July have become common knowledge, and even the Communist party is talking about the drugs and prostitution which the 15,000 American soldiers are going to bring to Comiso, and various other points which we brought up.

The second thing the Leagues must do is try to organise debates, public meetings, talking about the League itself as a means of struggle against the base.

The main work of the Leagues is to work towards the occupation, which means talking to people who have been involved in occupations elsewhere; also the work of finding funds to pay for all the paper, ink, mobility, the people working and living need to eat while they're there, and all these things have to be dealt with.

m: Obviously the sort of activity in which you've been involved can't have gone unnoticed by the state. Have you had any problems with the police?

J: When we opened our premises in Comiso we were hassled quite a lot by the police: they came round two or three times a day, saying they needed a list of all the members of the groups, the political aims, and so on. None of this was true, obviously.....pto..



And yet more.....if you think this is a bit much to read, just imagine how I feel typing it!.....

.....I think they were testing us to start with to see how we were going to reply, because they told us as a way of trying to convince us, that the pacifists and other groups there had told them quite willingly who they were, the names of the members and so on. I don't know if this was true or not, but we certainly weren't going to say anything of the kind,

as being legally responsible, which is basically what they were wanting. They just couldn't understand that everybody who was a member of the Leagues was responsible for themself-- they had to find one leader, or probably a scapegoat, which is what it really bails down to.

A leafletting which had unexpected results was one done in Vittorio, a small town six kilometres from Comiso. There's an ex-concentration camp from the last war there, which is due to be modernised for housing soldiers-- (cue much chuckling in the background)--they already offered it to the pacifists!-- when the schools were being leafletted that morning, at one school, of about 3 or 400 15-18-year-olds, on reading the leaflet and talking, refused to go in to school. They had a spontaneous strike; the vice-president of the school came out and tried to talk with the leafletters, and they refused to talk with the vice-president without a delegation of the pupils as well. They tried to convince them to go in because the president was due to arrive that day, but they all refused and had a spontaneous march to the square, which drew in all the shoppers and passers-by, and talked about the base and the need to form Leagues to fight the base.

A students' League was formed in Vittorio, which in turn organised a general strike of all the schools. They went along one morning and did leafletting in all the schools, calling them immediately to come out on strike and meet in one big square and have a meeting there about the base. At the beginning there must have been over a thousand schoolchildren....I'd say about 15,000....the square was absolutely full and the amplification we had just wasn't sufficient to reach all of them, and lots of them left because they couldn't participate in the discussion.

The police turned up, obviously, and surrounded the square and took names of students as the crowd died down. In Comiso there's a students' League which came out on strike when police tried to arrest a pacifist who was doing a solitary hunger-strike in the main square.

m: Time is running out for all of us, and the eyes of the world will be on Comiso (oh gosh, all good journalistic cliches coming out here!) this summer when the Cruise missiles will be moved in. What are your future actions going to be?

J: Well obviously we've got to get down to occupying the base; when I say "we", I mean the population of Comiso, and this means that we've got to become increasingly a point of reference for these people, which means intensifying the work we've been doing, being increasingly more concrete in what we're saying and talking to people about the reality of other occupations which have succeeded, organising visits from people who have taken part in these activities.

It's important as well to develop as many international contacts as possible, to have as much solidarity as possible, to have the eyes of the whole world on Comiso-- not just the mass media, but small publications of anarchists or other groups who are aware of the real extent of the problem, who realise and can appreciate the work being done and realise that they can actually participate in this effort, that preventing the base in Comiso isn't just actually being there physically to occupy the base, but it's to be elsewhere and aware of what's going on as it goes on.

(Yes, it's probably the end on the next



t page.....

⑦

It's precisely at this moment that we need as much support as possible, because once the occupation actually gets under way, people will come along and support it in every way possible, but at this moment when the thing is still fairly intangible, that all the support is needed. It's actually now that is the decisive moment; it's now that people have got to feel involved, not once they see something that is actually happening, but to be involved in making it happen. Come to Comiso and see for yourself what's going on there.

Well that's it. Sorry if it's a bit long (actually I'm not a bit sorry) but it's all interesting stuff. This was an edited version of the original tape, which we plan to play to Wednesday's CMD meeting; if you can't make that, we'll play it again some time in the near future-- see P.P. for details. I hereby award myself the Anarcho Black Star for great endurance in typing all that lot out. Amen.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Here's something totally unrelated.....

## WRECKERS

CONGRATULATIONS to the people of Hartland and surrounding districts in North Devon who revived the fine old Wessex tradition of 'Wrecking' when they systematically looted the abandoned wreck of the cargo ship Johanna, stranded on rocks off Hartland Point last weekend.

It is estimated that up to £200,000 worth of equipment has been liberated-- electronic gear, doors, windows, clothing, food, beer and so on.

In days gone by, this activity was one of the ways in which the impoverished workers and peasants of this area managed to avoid the threat of starvation-- quite often literally it was a matter of life and death.

Those involved have, of course, technically broken the law (the Merchant

Shipping Act 1894) and are liable for a fine of up to £500. But we all know that the law is there to protect the interests of the rich and powerful and to keep the rest of us down, so there's no reason why those at the bottom of this corrupt society shouldn't make life a bit easier for themselves and stuff the law. And of course people always have done and always will do-- at least until we create a free and equal world. In the past it was wrecking; nowadays it is shoplifting and fiddling the dole.

No, nothing changes.....today the capitalist media vilifies "Dole scroungers" and paints an absurd picture of people living off State benefits in the lap of luxury. In the past the ruling class and their lackeys in the press and clergy used

(Continued over page.....)



The Wreckers strike again.....

.....to put around the lie that people lured ships onto rocks by means of lanterns which looked like lighthouses and confused the crew as to their position.

There is, however, no authenticated record of this ever happening, just as there is no authentic case of anyone living in luxury on state benefits.

Except Royalty, of course.

#### Captain Misson.

~~~~~

Here's one for all you Art Students to break the ice at parties with.....

"2) The introduction of progressive unemployment through comprehensive mechanisation of every field of activity. Only by unemployment does it become possible for the individual to achieve certainty as to the truth of life and finally become accustomed to experience;

3) The immediate expropriation of property and the feeding of all; further, the erection of cities of light, and gardens which will belong to society as a whole and prepare people for a state of freedom."

From a manifesto issued by the Dadaist Revolutionary Central Council in 1917.

~~~~~

QUOTE OF THE WEEK comes from right-on Sister and Tory Councillor Ms June Fabian, for her comments in Council on Wednesday. Apparently, "Hastings Borough Council has played right into the hands of the Soviet Union" by opposing the government's so-called home defence policies, quoth the wise one. Oh yes, the eyes of the Kremlin are all focussed on HBC just to see how our elected representatives will vote on the issue of making Hastings a nuclear-free zone.

When it was pointed out to Ms F that she was talking about the wrong question, she very embarrassedly attempted to cover up her boob (take that how you will, you filthy-minded sod!), but failed pathetically. The Sisterhood wishes to extend a warm hand to Ms F, take her by the throat and shake her gently. Right on Sister!

# -8-ANTI-SOCIAL-SECURITY

## PART TWO:::::

In the 10th December issue of Poison Pen, we reprinted a leaflet produced by the London Workers Group entitled "Whose Benefit?-- Changes in the Social Security System".

Last Tuesday morning Alistair and I were distributing copies of the leaflet outside DHSS Heron House when a bloke came up to us and told us that he had filled in one of the new DHSS "postal Claim Forms", and despite dutifully posting it through the letterbox of Heron House, he had as yet received no Giro.

And what excuse had DHSS made? They said they had "lost" it. Tut tut, how careless of them. But wait-- that's not all. He had met two other claimants in Heron House who, like him, had received no Giro and who had also been told that their forms had been "lost". Well, once seems, careless shall we say....three times (in one morning) seems, shall we say, either stupid or maybe, um... how shall I put it?....deliberate? or a lie?

There's no doubt that we are all going to suffer from the recent changes in the Social Security system, especially the postal claims, the Unified Housing Benefit and the increasing viciousness of the Fraud Squads. In the face of this attack we must show increased solidarity-- talk to other claimants, if you see someone having a rough time at Heron House join in and support them, take a friend along to interviews, especially if you think it could be heavy.

If you have any difficulties claiming (or if you know any good fiddles!) get in touch with P.F.-- if we share our experiences we will be stronger.

Steve.

If you want a copy of the LWG leaflet "Whose Benefit? Changes in the Social Security System", single copies are free (send SAE); bulk orders are £2 per 100 post free. From:

Box LWG,  
c/o Little @,  
C.I Metropolitan Wharf,  
Wapping Wall,  
London E1.

PART TWO:::::

All of us who have had dealings with UBO and DESS departments know that the lackeys who run them delight in treating us as though we are the pits. We are made to feel as though we are being punished just for being in the circumstances that make it necessary to receive state benefit.

The government has us all neatly divided up into categories, all with rules designed to make life pretty tough while eking out an existence on the pittance that the state pays. As a single parent I found myself caught up in the network of these regulations recently, on account of my offspring having attained her sweet sixteenth birthday.

This is the point where the powers-that-be say your child can take care of him- or herself, so you can sign on and take a full-time job. At the same time they decide that you need less money, so they knock you down to the basic rate, which works out about £7 a week less.

All this is regardless of the fact that the child could still have several months of schooling to complete. So you sign a form to say that you are willing to take any job you could do-- if you answer 'no', your benefit can be stopped. The idea of this sort of hassle, together with the rules about letting them know even if you do voluntary work, is so that you get pissed off and perhaps go out and get yourself a job which could leave you even worse off than living on state pittance, but this is just what they want, and to give in is to let them win hands down.

So fuck them-- we must get whatever we can out of the system. Whatever happens, they must not win.

Dec.

POSTSCRIPT: Re the magistrate reported on the front page, there are two Hollingsworths listed in the book, so we shall endeavour to discover which one was responsible for sending that claimant down, and we will print his address and 'phone number as soon as we know. And yes-- one of them is the boss of the garage chain. The aforementioned book is a list of magistrates for this area-- if anyone wants a look at it, it contains the names, addresses & 'phone numbers of the magistrates. Our moles have been doing a bit of rooting out and have discovered some quite interesting snippets about some of these characters.....see a P.P. person if you have any juicy info or you want a look at the list.

and another postscript.....further to the article by the claimant in the 10/12/82 ish who had fallen foul of the new housing regulations and was owed money by the Council, he did actually receive it in the end.....if you don't know what this is all about, don't worry.....

Oh um yes.... let's go on to some letters..... and the first is accompanied by some rather...err...fetching pics:

Dear melita,

This incredibly WOW and loud rock and roll band will be playing on Friday 21st January at Rumours, known as The Wild Eagles in these in-the-know parts of the country.

Hope you had lots of fun during the Yuletide. Celebrations etc....

Please put these bits of paper to good use and don't say I never send you any contributions. Who do you think sends you all those blackmail notes? Quick, pay up or I'll reveal your true identity-- an undercover Social Security/Fraud Squad investigator posing as an anarchist.....

Hei Hei much love and good wishes

Debi.

Happy New Year.

AAAAH! Sussed!! Well, how can I refuse such persuasion? Oh gosh, they look like such nice chaps from their pics-- draping their beerguts in such a macho manner over bits of scaffolding and Harley-D's. Mm....nice chaps, I'm sure.....



The following article is taken from "OUTWRITE" Dec '82.....

## Don't Play Games With Our Bodies....

Pornographic videogames have hit the U.S. market. American Multiple Industries of Northridge, California, is introducing three videogame cassettes that are blatantly sexist and racist.

The object of 'Custer's Revenge' is to manoeuvre a naked Custer through a group of arrow-shooting Indian warriors to reach and rape a bound Indian maiden. The more times he rapes her, the more points a player scores. The game uses rape as an entertainment.

Says Women Against Pornography spokeswoman Kristen Reilly: "this videogame "takes pornographic themes a step further by actively involving the player in the rape and acts of sexual degradation. This active involvement takes the player a step closer to sexually violating women in real life."

The U.S. Indian Community House of New York City is another group protesting against the games. Spokesman Rudy Martin exclaims: "They've been raping our women and killing our men as entertainment on t.v. for years. It's got to stop."

In another game, 'Beat 'em and Eat 'em', the player must manoeuvre a prostitute standing on the street to swallow the falling semen of a man masturbating on the roof above her.

The games, which will be advertised in Playboy and Penthouse, come in packages marked "Not for sale to minors" and carry the Swedish Erotica insignia used for X-rated video movie-cassettes.

A number of groups demonstrated on October 14th against a videogame trade show exhibiting these games held at the New York Hilton.

If you hear of these games being available here, let us know. Together, we could work towards getting them banned.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Page evenen....

And another letter; if you don't know what this is all about, then get hold of a copy of the Krismas ish of Werthing @'s "Ludd & Swing" (full of reprints from P.P., Freedom etc...) from your local anarcho persons. Fly us with cash and you might get one free.....

Dear Poison Pen,

I was amazed to read in the Xmas edition of "Ludd & Swing" someone called Andrew Clomp claiming that the IRA were really Russians, attempting to establish a communist state in Ireland (We take no responsibility for what appears in L&S-- T'pist); a couple of months ago "Panorama" had a little old lady explaining that all supporters of groups like the Animal Liberation Front didn't actually like animals at all, but were trying to infiltrate the RSPCA in order to use their hard-earned funds to finance the Communist Party. The government seems to think all pacifists are Soviet spies.

I do not support Communism (or the IRA) and of course everyone has the right to believe what they want, but it always astounds me that people can have such ludicrous and narrowminded views.

After all, I don't personally like Bird's Eye fish fingers, but it doesn't mean they're a Communist plot.....

Peace, love & @,  
Kes the American.

P.S. I would also like to mention that I didn't like Jim Jardine's remark in L&S that the bulk of the population in America are scum. Half, maybe.....

P.P.S. This should really have been a letter to Ludd & Swing I suppose, but I couldn't be bothered to buy a stamp.....

~~~~~

Yeah, well no doubt L&S will reprint your comments in the next edition in about four months' time (bitch bitch)....

As for your remarks about the government and Soviet spies, it's traditional that those people (especially the ones in power) who feel threatened by something/someone like to instil their paranoia into everyone else, e.g. by saying that OND is funded by the Kremlin and if we disarm, then Russia will invade Britain. And unfortunately, for every scare-monger, there are a dozen others willing to believe him/her. The point is to make people see through all the crap and identify the true threat to our lives and well-being, which is power and authority in all its manifestations, whether it comes from Russia, America, Outer Mongolia or Britain.

melita.

~~~~~

HELP:::S.O.S.:::HELP:::S.O.S.:::

In what is probably the biggest project we have undertaken in our entire history,

Hastings @'s have been donated a building by a benefactress in order to carry on our

work in more suitable surroundings. Unfortunately, the building is in a poor state of

repair in places at the moment, but we hope that within a few months we will have a

smoothly-running conference centre/meeting place/dissemination of information point;

we would like there to be a wholefood co-op run from there, and there will be meeting

rooms for use by groups and individuals-- in fact its potential is virtually limitless.  
pto....



cont. from previous page...

And this is where you, dear reader, come in. In order to make it work, we need NOW:

Tools: saws, hammers, nails, screws & screwdrivers, pliers, drills etc, either as donations or on loan;

Wood: hardboard, plywood, plasterboard, planks etc, any size or shape, free or cheap.

Skills: anyone with any knowledge of wiring, carpentry, plumbing, etc or just plain enthusiasm is needed to help out, even if only for an hour.

Any oddments like toilet cisterns (!), wire, light sockets/ switches, help with transport etc etc will all be gratefully received; no matter how small or seemingly useless any bits and pieces are to you, we will be able to use anything even remotely like the above.

There will be more details in next week's Poison Pen; in the meantime see Steve or Melita if you can offer any help, bits and pieces, ideas, energy etc, or come along to our meeting on Sunday night at 9:30 at Mr Cherry's pub. This could be the start of something pretty damn big!:

@@@@@@

Don't forget the Jazz Caverners are still playing every Tuesday evening at Mr Cherry's; hmmm not a lot else is happening this week on the groovy-scene-type entertainments

front...theatre workshop is starting up again on Thursday (I think) at HUCAC; 7:30 pm-- funn & laffs and a chance to do & say some things you wouldn't normally dream of....!

POISON PEN IS PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY THOSE CUDDLY ETHEREAL CHAPS AT HASTINGS FREE PRESS, 92 LONDON ROAD, ST. LEONARDS-ON-SLUDGE, SUSSEX. Contact Hastings @s/P.P. 6/6 this address for the time being. Erki there's a space and i can't think what to stick in it....oh hang on....here are some odes...

#### SOCIETY'S ABUSE

DRUG ABUSE, POLICE ABUSE,  
SELF-INFLICTED ABUSE,  
DISTANT CRIES OF A SOLDIER'S HORRIFIC DEATH,  
FAKLAND CRISIS-- SUCH SELFISHNESS.

ANIMAL DEATH IN A SLAUGHTERHOUSE,  
JEWISH DEATH IN AUSCHWITZ,  
SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENT--  
WILL IT EVER END?

BATTERED, BLEEDING, SCREAMING BABY LIES  
DYING IN A PRAM,  
BIG FUCKIN' MOTHER,  
BIG FUCKIN' MAN,  
CHILD BATTERERS OF SICK SOCIETY.

#### SUBVERSION

Governments are a dangerous minority;  
We are the powerless majority;  
They chuck their rules like a brick in our face,

But we could stop future oppression  
With anarchy and peace.

We ain't gonna listen no more;  
We don't wanna see another war;  
We don't wanna hear a defence bill  
Cos anarchy and peace is not  
A systematic kill.

Both poems by Mike Spike.

# POISONPEN

HASTINGS' MOST IRREGULAR ANARCHIST WEEKLY

## THE KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR

(BUT IT'S GETTING A BIT TARNISHED)

The Sussex House Rest Home is under investigation after complaints by two ex-employees about the way it is run. This establishment, situated at Marina, St Leonards, is only one of the rest homes owned by that vile bag Jane (or Jenny) Knight. Another is Mount Hermon, also notorious for the way that the patients are treated and the slave wages that this woman pays.

She also owns the Yelton Hotel, where the waitresses (or at least some of them) get about 60p an hour. I was told this by a girl who worked there last summer when she was 17.

Mrs Knight is one of the unscrupulous breed of nursing and rest home proprietors, their fees being about £100 a week, who present themselves as being genuinely concerned about the welfare of the elderly, but this front masks their true intention of making as much money as possible for themselves. The wages that they offer are so scandalously low that people either refuse to work for them or they don't stay very long. Many of these places are constantly advertising for staff, which is hardly surprising.

One of the complaints about Sussex House was that unqualified staff were being used to do the work of trained nurses such as changing dressings and bathing patients. I found this when I worked as a cleaner at Overcliffe Rest Home in West Hill Road: I was asked to lift patients out of baths, but I refused as I was not trained for such work. I pointed this out, adding that I did not want to risk back injury either.

It is true of course that not all old people's homes are run like the aforementioned, and not all the proprietors are of Mrs Knight's ilk, but the ones that are certainly warrant investigation.

Another of their tricks is taking on people who are living on state benefit, paying them even less than the going rate, which is low enough, in return for keeping them off the books or only declaring a certain amount to the DSS. This kind of arrangement may seem like an advantage to the claimant, but the employers hold the whip hand: they will do their utmost to get their pound of flesh and if the DSS should get wind of it, they will do the dirty and give the likes of Chris Langdon (see P.P. 7/1/83) the relevant information.

I hope that more people who have had experience of establishments like Sussex House or Overcliffe will expose what goes on in them. The more bad publicity these places and the owners get, the better.

Dec.



Excuses time before we start.....sorry there wasn't an edition of Poison Pen last week, but there just weren't enough hours to fit everything in, and we're fretfully busy chaps....it's probably something to do with the psychic vortex and the fact that the world's rotation is slowing down. Come the revolution, we'll have no more of that sort of nonsense! Nevertheless, the organ you are now clutching is guaranteed 100% genuine, no hidden extras, bona fide this week's issue (unless you're reading it next week). And what is all this about? you may well ask. Umm ummm....oh I dunno. Well shut up and get on with it then. Oh, OK.....how's this for starters.....?

## BLOOD MONEY.....

ON BOXING DAY the East Sussex & Romney Marsh fox hunt had their traditional public relations meet at Battle. This involves the members of the hunt parading themselves with the hounds for the sightseers and locals. During this time 'the cap' is passed around by a red-coat to collect for the hunt staff: the huntsmen, kennel men etc. This year the red-coat was challenged as to whether he had a licence for such a collection. He replied in the affirmative.

A 'phone call after the new year to Rother District Council at Bexhill Town Hall, however, did not substantiate this claim.

The person from the Council said that no licence had been issued that month. He repeated that a licence would be necessary and, when asked, agreed that the hunt had no special dispensation with regard to street collections. The hunt were collecting on the road and car park by Battle Abbey, which are under Rother Council's jurisdiction.

A minor point perhaps, and obviously if people don't want to give money to the hunt then they needn't; but this is an organisation, and let's not forget that the British Field Sports Society is a very wealthy and powerful organisation, which dedicates itself to destroying living creatures for the enjoyment of its members.

Far from being reviled by the establishment these people are courted and protected by the police, who are supposed to be working for the taxpayer.

Anyway, back to the point. Boo, hiss to the hunt. Collect your money now while you have got the chance!

Poxy Foxy.

## POLICE HARASSMENT

I'm writing to raise a point which has frequently been voiced in connection with black folk and punks. What a lot of people do not realise is that us hippies (there are quite a few of us about!) also suffer from gross harassment by the police.

I was stopped and searched eight times in 1982. Six of these occasions ended in me being taken to the police station and strip-searched. The reason for the police stopping me is because I, who wear bizarre clothes and Legalise Cannabis badges (and, god forbid, anti-establishment badges) am apparently a 'suspicious' character.

I have also, on one occasion, been threatened with a veiled form of blackmail, i.e. if I admitted to having drugs on my premises, the police would search

'only' my flat and would (generously) refrain from searching the flats of my elderly neighbours. As I had a struggle to keep my flat after the death of my grandmother, with whom I shared the accommodation, any disturbance of this type would give my landlord an excuse for throwing me out. I flatly refused to admit to possessing anything, largely because it was the absolute truth.

Continued on next page.....

Police harassment continues.....

During this time I consistently demanded to make a 'phone call to my boyfriend. I was not allowed to do so as it was assumed I might tip him off into stashing any substances I might have floating around. I then said I would ring my father. I was not permitted to do so. Neither would they let me ring Release.

My belongings were taken away and searched-- standard procedure-- they took with them my hospital prescribed tablets for a thyroid disease and my spectacles. I was also informed that because my boyfriend was who he was (he has no criminal record but is repeatedly stopped and searched because he has long hair and comes from Thailand), they had every reason for suspecting me, and that he too might be subjected to a raid on his premises. My boyfriend was not with me on this occasion-- they merely found a photo of him in my shoulder bag.

Frankly, this situation is getting us down because the police seem to know more about us each time they stop us. Maybe I'm paranoid but I believe that they have an up-to-date file on us covering such information as our presence on CND demos, free festivals, my anarchistic beliefs and our hatred of the establishment. My boyfriend is particularly worried because he is not able to afford the fees for naturalisation as a British subject and could be thrown out of the country, despite the fact that he has lived here since 1968.

I am particularly worried because if they don't find drugs in a raid on my home (and I'm not daft enough to keep drugs in the house), they'll simply take all my 'subversive' literature and drug books-- all of which are in constant use while I am studying the sociology of deviant behaviour. But what judge would believe me?

I'd like to tell any punks and blacks who might read this that we have a lot in common with them and the sooner they realise it, the more we can get together and do something about the situation we're in at the moment.

Love, peace & Direct Action,

(Ms.) D.M. Brighton.

P.S. are there any anarchists in Brighton or am I alone in the cosmos? If there are any of you out there I'd like to get in contact.

TYPISSED'S REPLY:::::

Sincere condolences are offered from this corner of the cosmos (not that they'll ameliorate the situation) to this poor unfortunate in Brighton. We've heard a lot about the coppers there, causing trouble and over-reacting to the most trivial matters. The only answers are get out of the place, look more 'respectable' or just put up with it. Not an enviable position in which to be.

If any Brighton area @'s want to be put in touch with D.M., contact her through us (Special Branch can get knotted). All I can say is that I hope things improve soon. If anyone has any similar stories, especially in the Hastings area, get in touch with P.F., anonymously if you're too scared.

M.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

p.s. Steve says why don't you marry your boyfriend so's he can stay here, and of course if there's a revolution, that'll put a stop to the blighters!

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

The chairman of the bench of magistrates reported in the last issue of Poison Pen ("Claimant Gaoled-- Just who are the Socially Secure?"), we are informed, is one Paul Timothy Hollingsworth, proprietor of Hollingsworth's chain of garages. His home address is "Squirrels Court", Hollinghurst Road, St Leonards; tele: 754609 (home) or 422727 (Bohemia Rd garage) if you would like to tell him what you think of him.

You may remember that he and his cohorts were responsible for gaoing a claimant for earning £25 over a period of time and not declaring it, in what Hollingsworth described as "a very serious and anti-social offence". Last week two policemen charged with attempted murder and wounding walked out of court on unconditional bail. Justice?

M.



Thanks to all those who wrote for this week's mini-issue-- no apologies for the diminutive dimensions of the organ, 'cause we're just too busy working on other projects, and P.P. at the moment is one of our lesser (albeit most visible) activities. This week's would have contained a message from the Friends of Doug Wakefield, but my dear sweet little pussy ate it before I had a chance to type it... the young beastly thing had better paws for thought (groan!) before attempting a similar trick again or she'll find herself made into a pie and a hat.....grrrrr..

---

WATCH OUT...WATCH OUT....FASCISTS ARE IN TOWN!!!!: Information received had led us to believe that a couple of skinheads have been installed in a flat in Western Road which is being paid for by the British Movement in Brighton, in order to start up a branch here in Hastings. The only initial signs of their presence have been some gormo stickers around the area...if you see any of these on lamp-posts etc, don't walk past--pick 'em off, but use a coin or a key, 'cause the Bowel Movement have been known to place razor blades behind their stickers. Let's hope good ole Hastings Apathy strikes again-- it has its uses some times. If anyone has any info about this, please get in touch with us.

---

The Jazz Caverners are still playing every Tuesday night at Mr Cherry's pub: home of sundry delights ranging from one variety of Old Devil to another....the very best Martin will tickle your fancy and anything else you should carelessly leave lying around so what more could you want except to know that Hastings @'s meet in there every Sunday evening around 9:15?

---

And yes, as usual we're broke. All our money over the past couple of weeks has gone on useful and worthwhile things (no--NOT anarcho-piss-ups!) so we haven't got any cash left after this week's ish. PLEASE give us 5p for your copy....some people receive every issue and have never donated one penny so please help out-- even a 2-sheet issue costs us 5p per copy to produce and our littlebag of pennies won't go very far. Thanks to all those who have given money, and may the Curse of Betty Spendlove befall all those who haven't. Send articles, letters, ideas, money etc to us c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Rd, St Leonards-on-sea, Sussex. P.P. is printed & published by the aforementioned august organisation. Typing was by me.

---

Next Friday at the Unemployed Centre: Medway Poets-- highly recommended if they're as good as when we last saw them; also possibly a gig there on saturday...maybe...

28th Jan 1985

POISON  
PEN



FREE  
ANARCHIST  
WEEKLY

PEACE · FREEDOM · EQUALITY

## MASS ARREST OF CLAIMANTS

IN SEPTEMBER of last year the largest operation against Social Security claimants ever mounted in this country was carried out by the Thames Valley Police in Oxford. 'Operation Major' resulted in the arrest of two hundred and eighty-three people and involved the creation of a fake DHSS office. It also involved considerable neglect of the ordinary 'civil rights' of citizens:

:: People who were known by the police to be innocent were kept in custody for up to ten hours in order to prevent them from warning others. Their personal belongings were taken away from them. Many were fingerprinted; all were photographed. One young man who refused was imprisoned overnight and released, uncharged, the following day.

:: Few of those arrested were given any information regarding their 'rights'.

:: None of those arrested was allowed the telephone call to which they were all entitled.

:: None of the one hundred and seventy-five who were charged on the first day was allowed to speak to a solicitor, despite the fact that several asked to see one.

:: The police made elaborate arrangements to inform their friends in the capitalist press and media of what was going on but seemed for some strange reason to be incapable of informing the friends and relatives of those arrested of their whereabouts.

:: Despite the fact that defendants have a statutory 'right' to see a solicitor, a chief inspector refused to allow a solicitor into police cells.

:: When they appeared in the special courts (which sat from 3pm till eleven at night) set up to try these cases, defendants were not informed of the 'right' to speak to a solicitor and those who requested this 'right' were denied it.

PLEASE TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE



Continued from the front page:----

This operation was a vicious state attack on one of the weakest sections of society-- the single homeless. The weekly rate of benefit for those of "no fixed abode" is £16.80 a week. The "fraud" which these arrested had committed consisted of falsely declaring that they were living at one of two local boarding houses in order to claim a higher rate of benefit-- £87.20. They paid the landlords of these establishments between £5 and £10 a week for letters stating that they were living there when they were not.

These two landlords, Jeremiah Cronin and Haribhai Patel, who are both stinking rich on account of running these squalid doss-houses, were therefore equally involved in the "fraud" and benefitted from it more than any of the claimants have. They have not been prosecuted, nor have they had to refund any money to DSS. But then they were businessmen behaving in the traditional capitalist fashion of living off the backs of others, so we would hardly expect the state to take any action against them.

As for the police action itself and the highly irregular court proceedings, it can only be said that, while one has no faith in the normal course of so-called justice in this country, these actions seem like something one would expect to happen in Russia rather than here.

Things haven't got that bad in Hastings yet, but all the ingredients are there: landlords like Riordan and Tony Brooks live in style at the expense of claimants who are unlucky enough to have to live in their slums; scum like magistrate Paul Hollingsworth send claimants to jail for not declaring tiny sums of money they have earned, and while we haven't yet received a visit from the Special Claims Control Unit, it is probably only a matter of time.

We must be ready when the clampdown comes. It is no good placing our trust in political parties, clapped-out reformist trade unions or social workers. In the end, we, the unwaged, will have to defend ourselves.

Steve.

\*\*\*\*\*

For more information on Operation Major, see "Poor Law: The Mass Arrest of Homeless Claimants in Oxford" £1.95 from CHART, the Campaign for Single Homeless People, 27 John Adam St., London WC2.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### A REVIEW:----

If you enjoy reading Poison Pen and would like to know a little more about the politics behind it, then a handy little booklet entitled "Everything You Wanted to Know About Anarchism-- But Were Afraid to Ask" might be what you want.

Short and to the point, it tells you the very basics of anarchism-- and it gives you the answers to all those questions like "Doesn't it mean chaos?", "What about murderers?" and "How do we get from here to there?"

Most of the text-- I think we should forget the grotty cartoons (and numerous spelling mistakes)-- is devoted to explaining how anarchists can work together now in small groups, organising against the State, often in their workplaces. While it would be foolish of me to believe that this will suddenly happen, I certainly found myself inspired to think that if more people were made to think about the shit conditions they have to put up with, then maybe they will do something about it.

Continued on Page 5----

# A sick parade I'd rather miss

Inmates of Britain's jails must have offered prayers that the Director of Public Prosecutions was not watching Channel 4's "One in Five" because, if it be possible to importune the entire viewing public, this programme did it; and no self-respecting mugger wants a homosexual for a cellmate.

The stock joke, "It's legal now", is not really funny. Like other comparatively recent laws, this one is on the Statute Book not through the will of a majority of Britons, but because an unrepresentative collection of individuals voted for it.

I remember a huge headline which greeted it, in 1967... The Pansies' Charter. As a yardstick of contempt, it was fairly accurate. Otherwise, it was not, because use of that word, charter, implies approval — and it is an unreliable premise that something must be acceptable because a noisy, noxious minority says it is. The law does not endorse homosexuality; it merely curtails the penalties.

Channel 4 presented a gathering of homosexuals and lesbians as simply "different" — gentle, harmless creatures meriting tolerance and understanding. In fact, they were scruffy little beings who had absolutely no right to project their perversion at ordinary people through a communal medium such as TV. In short, if you have moral herpes, keep it to yourself!

## SICK AND MAUDLIN

Producer Paul Cremland had been quoted as saying "The programme is not offensive in any way. I think everyone will enjoy it". Not so. It was, and they did not. In fact, as participants proudly paraded the carcinoma of their subnormality, it became plain that this programme was as sick as we had been led to expect.

SICK — in the bland attempts to present a neo-political argument in defence of the indefensible.

SICK — in the use of terminology designed to sound natural: "emotional commitment", "loving relationships".

SICK — in the maudlin presentation

of a "soldier boy" ballad calculated to make a Para puke in a bucket.

SICK — in the parody of a police warning: "We will leave you alone if there is no violence."

But the truth of what they are could not be hidden. It showed clearly in the pat phrases, fishnet jeans, make-up, and hairstyles (like candyfloss gone wrong) and in the acute difficulty ordinary viewers experienced in sorting out the he's, she's, and it's. (I reckon the live boa constrictor was the only normal creature there.)

Well, what to do about it? I do not know. Assorted M.P.s, including the local variety, have protested that the Independent Broadcasting Authority should "act". Mind you, M.P.s will protest about the weather if they think it gets a headline, and there seems little point in the I.B.A. putting the contract out to tender.

Channel 4, which, in cultural terms, had already established itself as the rectum of British television, will die anyway — either through financial strangulation (homosexual advertising for the programme was banned) or choking on its own bile.

## PROPAGANDA

Apart from recognizing Saturday night's effort as plain perverts' propaganda (they gave the Gay Switchboard number), it almost defies description. If it was not an attempt to suborn proper people, what was it? Entertainment? A couple of consenting camels would do better.

But there was a threatening undertone. Consider the effect which such programmes, plus uncensored homosexual films which Channel 4 is reported to have bought, could have on young people.

The films are "Sebastiane" and "Nighthawks". The former (Roman Times) is plain, archetypal filth; but the latter shows a comprehensive school teacher trying to explain his homosexuality to a class.

"Trying to explain" can only mean "sell" (which means "corrupt"); and this is serious. What may we expect next — "Tea with Transvestites", "Pop with Paedophiles", or any other minority group of mentally sub-normals?

As credible television, "One in Five" rated nought out of ten.

BIGOT OF THE YEAR

P.T.C.



FOLLOWING ON FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE.....

The article headed "A Sick Parade I'd Rather Miss" was originally printed in the Portsmouth News on the 3rd January this year.

It sparked off a controversy which concerned the columns of the paper for the following three Mondays, closing with an article by a homosexual man, and a statement by the National Union of Journalists' Portsmouth chapel, dissociating their members from the "extremist and malicious views on homosexuals" expressed in the original piece.

And while I would normally wish to defend Mr Potter's right to state his views publicly, in no way can I condone the hysterical drivel he has produced. He says: "they were scruffy little beings who had absolutely no right to project their perversion at ordinary people..." But clearly this man has the arrogance to assume that he has the god-given right to air his ignorant prejudices in the pages of the paper he sub-edits.

Mr Potter's article is gross and insulting in the extreme to homosexuals. Not once, but twice does he call them "mentally sub-normal"-- and "One in Five" lived up to his expectations. I suggest

that in future Wilf keeps an open mind before he watches such a programme again. Or why doesn't he simply reach for the 'off' button next time?

This poor little man obviously feels under threat from members of the public who may have been 'corrupted' by watching programmes like "One in Five"-- how dare he believe himself to be so superior and have such a condescending attitude to "young people"?

Furthermore, it's not only the content of the article which appals me-- the style adopted is atrocious. No wonder the NUJ disowned it! Perhaps they could find a cosy place for Mr Potter on the "News of the Screws" or "Sunday Express". Well done to the NUJ in Portsmouth who said in this Monday's edition of the News: "The tone and substance of the article was a travesty of the standards that our members try to maintain."

But the final episode in this sickening saga is a letter which appeared in this week's U.K. Press Gazette. The letter, written by one Sue Potter, defends the right of the author to express his views in print. It's a shame that Ms Potter fails to mention that it is her father she is defending.

A Person With a  
Big Nose.

P.S. TO THE PREVIOUS PAGE:::::

PAGE FIVE

If anyone feels like writing to Mr Potter and telling him just what you think of him, then write to him at 35 Chichester Avenue, Hayling Island, Hants. PO11 9EZ.

Just goes to show wot a bunch of tossers most journalists are.....

Review continued from page 2:

Communications-- or rather, the breakdown of state-controlled/dominated media-- can play an effective role in spreading the idea of anarchism, and influencing people to act rather than passively consume what's put in front of them. The booklet explains this clearly, and it really does offer food for thought and action.

I was pleased to see that the women's movement is supported throughout the booklet-- praise is given for the way the movement organises in small units, albeit against men, and not the state, which is the real enemy.

The book list of anarchist writings provides encouragement for you to delve a little further into the subject. But as an introduction to elementary anarchism, this booklet does very well.

You can get hold of a copy from Anarchist Media Group, 108 Salisbury Road, Cathays, Cardiff, price 40p & S&E.

Anna Rexic.

oooooooooooo

Urgh! Right-- first things frist (or even first)-- apologies to Ian for the non-

inclusion of his poem, but I be suffering with the flu's and ain't had time and what with Clarrie's brat on the way and the animals to muck out, well there's so much to be done. Still, there's always next week...and as for Shula and her bleedin' bell-ringing...well I dunno....what a row she makes, the stuck-up old cow....and she's still after Mark and probably Ben too if she could get her hands on him. Anyway, where was I? Oh yeah-- what's on this week.....well, first off there's a gig on at HUCAC tomorrow which is absolutely nothing to do with Shula Archer you'll be glad to hear (tho' you'd be forgiven for thinking otherwise).....that's

SATURDAY 29th at HUCAC 8p.m.-- £1 waged/50p unwaged and for that you can sample the delights of CUIT HEROES, WHITE RABBITS and THE ARCHITECTS.....contrary to rumour, Eddie Grundy won't be playing, but don't let that put you off. Apparently there's a bar with real drinkable beer this time (not done by the Cat & Fiddle) so that should make it more of an enticing proposition.

Looks like poor Sid's been conned a bit by Nelson into taking that fruit machine down at the Bull ain't 'e? Bit of a smooth talker that Nelson Gabriel, not like 'is old dad, poor codger.....anyway, there was something I was supposed to be telling you about.... oh arr-- Ambridge Anarchos meet every Sunday night at Mr Cherry's at 9:15 so you can come along and have a chat about Laura Archer's latest peculiar habit, bring along your articles, contributions, pennies etc blah blah....also on Tuesday night at Cherry's-- the Jazz Caverners. Hooray.

Forthcoming gigs at HUCAC-- Cracked Mirror Fri. February 18th 8pm-midnight £1/50p;  
Jazz Caverners Fri. March 4th 8-11pm.

Yukkkk I'm gonna take my lumps of flob away and collapse into a receptacle for Grange Hill.....this edition was typed by the Hob-Hound of Ambridge & was printed by Jack Woolley at Ambridge Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea (Nr. Ambridge), Sx. Stay tuned for another exciting edition of the Archers next week....'ello, what's Laura up to with that patagonian tree frog now.....?



# WHY PUNK IS A TOTAL FAILURE

» BLOW IT UP OR BURN IT DOWN... «

PUNK'S NOT DEAD - SO WHAT? IS ANY YOUTH CULT WORTH SALVAGING LONG AFTER HISTORY HAS SENT IT TO THE RUBBISH TIP? OF COURSE NOT. PUNK IS NOW OBSOLETE, INCAPABLE OF BEING A THREAT TO THE SYSTEM, + IS STILL EASY PICKINGS FOR THE RECORD COMPANIES. ALL CULTS COME FULL CIRCLE, PUNK IS NO EXCEPTION. THE REBELS OF THE SEVENTIES ARE NOW THE TRASH OF THE EIGHTIES. THIS LEAFLET HAS BEEN PUT OUT, NOT BY LEFTISTS OR N.M.S. READERS, BUT BY A GROUP OF ANARCHISTS WHO ARE FED UP WITH THE FARCE OF 'PUNK ANARCHY'. THE PROOF OF OUR CRITICISM IS OBVIOUS. JUST LOOK AROUND YOU + SEE HOW MUCH REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY GOES ON AT A GIG. A FEW BANDS TRYING TO FIGHT THE STATE WITH A FEARSOME ARRAY OF GUITARS + MIKE STANDS, MAKING THEIR 'SOCIAALLY RELEVANT' STATEMENTS (USUALLY LIMITED TO SONGS ABOUT MAGGIE THATCHER OR THE BOMB, SEEMS ANY OUTRAGED LIBERAL CAN BECOME AN ANARCHIST THESE DAYS AS FAR AS GIGS DEMONSTRATE), COLLECT THEIR EXPENSES + FUCK OFF HOME IN HIRED TRANSIT VANS. THE AUDIENCE, MEANWHILE, WORKS UP THEIR ENERGY, BUT INSTEAD OF GOING OUT + STARTING UP A RIOT, AS YOU'D EXPECT FROM SUCH SELF-PROFESSED SUBVERSIVES, THEY GET RID OF IT BY JUMPING UP + DOWN ON THE SPOT. THE CIRCUS ENDS + THE SPECTATORS PROOF HOME IN AN OBEDELY FASHION, TIRED BUT HAPPY, CONVINCED THEY HAVE 'DONE SOMETHING' AGAINST THE STATE. LAST YEAR, CS GAS WAS USED FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE BRITISH MAINLAND. LIVERPOOL POLICE MURDERED A CRIPPLE DURING THE RIOTS BY RUNNING HIM OVER. MANCHESTER POLICE ORDERED SUB MACHINE GUNS FROM WEST GERMANY. WEAPONS WHOSE ONLY EFFECTIVE ROLE IS IN DEALING WITH CROWD DISTURBANCES. PORTON DOWN DOUBLED ITS OUTPUT OF RIOT GAS. ALL IN ALL 3000 WERE ARRESTED. MANY OF THEM ARE STILL BEING HELD IN SPECIAL INTERNMENT CAMPS AS THEY AWAIT TRIAL. BRITAIN IS COLLAPSING AS AN INDUSTRIAL NATION, THERE WILL BE NO FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY OR GENERAL WEALTH. A COUNTRY ALLOWS AS MUCH FREEDOM AS ITS ECONOMY CAN AFFORD. + WE ARE ALREADY FEELING THE PINCH. BRITAIN IS HEADING TOWARDS A STATE OF TOTAL CLASS WAR. ALREADY MANCHESTER POLICE CHIEF JOHN ANDERTON HAS SAID THAT THE POLICE'S MOST IMPORTANT JOB WILL NOT BE DEALING WITH RAPE OR ROBBERY BUT 'AN INCREASE IN ACTIVITY DESIGNED TO SUBVERT THE STATE'. WHERE WILL PUNK, WITH ITS NAIVE SLOGANEERING + ITS ENTIRE APATHY BE THEN? NO DOUBT PUNKS WILL CONTINUE TO DAUB ANARCHY SYMBOLS ON THEIR JACKETS AS THEY POSE AT THE RIGHT GIGS, WHILE IN TOX TETH + MOSS SIDE, KIDS EVEN YOUNGER THAN THEMSELVES HURL PETROL BOMBS AT THE POLICE + THE ARMY. + IN TURN GET KILLED BY RUBBER BULLETS. WHAT USE WILL THE BANDS + THEIR LYRICS, OR THE VANITY OF THE SO-CALLED HARD CORE PUNKS BE THEN?

NEITHER PUNK NOR ANY OF ITS OFFSHOOTS, SUCH AS THE CULT OF CHOWLEY WORSHIP, HAZY ANTI-CLERICALISM (THE CHURCH IS ALWAYS AN EASY TARGET, IN BRITAIN IT TENDS NOT TO FIGHT BACK + THUS MAKES ITSELF A MARVELLOUS OUTLET FOR THOSE PUNKS TOO COWARDLY TO BREAK THE LAW) OR OFFENSIVE, WET-ARSED PACIFISM. MUSIC WILL NEVER SUCCEED IN CHANGING SOCIETY, ESPECIALLY PUNK WITH ITS MONOTONIC UNIFORM + CLUMSY ATTEMPTS TO 'SHOCK' THE PUBLIC. THE ONLY LANGUAGE POLICIANS UNDERSTAND IS THAT OF MOLOTOVS + BURNING POLICE VANS. BUT TO BELIEVE THAT PUNK WILL CHANGE FOR THE BETTER IS FUTILE. WE'VE WAITED SIX LONG YEARS FOR PUNK TO PRODUCE ANYTHING APPROACHING A WILL TO FIGHT BACK (NOT JUST BY BUYING THE DISCHARGE SINGLE OF THAT NAME) AGAINST THE STATE + ALL THOSE WHO OFFER TO CHANGE SOCIETY ON OUR BEHALF. WHAT ANARCHISTS DEMAND MAY SEEM IMPOSSIBLE, BUT ONLY BY DOING THIS DO WE REMAIN TRUE TO OURSELVES. OUR ENEMY, THE STATE, IS VAST + FORMIDABLE. THUS THE BUSINESS OF REVOLUTION IS SERIOUS. IT ISN'T SOMETHING TO DO ON A FRIGID NIGHT AT THE FIED BULL IN ISLINGTON OR AT THE LIGCUM. WE DO NOT WISH TO BECOME A DEBATING SOCIETY. WE AIM TO BE A POLITICAL FIGHTING FORCE. WE NEED TOTAL COMMITMENT, NOT TEENAGE WEEKEND REBELLION. OUR MESSAGE TO THOSE AMONGST YOU WHO WISH TO PRETEND AT BEING ANARCHISTS IS SIMPLE. GET OFF OUR BACKS + GO HOME TO YOUR PARENTS. THE SYSTEM IS HARSH + BRUTAL. THOSE WHO NEED TO FALL BACK UPON A SET OF LYRICS OR PAINTED LEATHER JACKETS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES UP WILL NOT SURVIVE. BUT THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO CHALLENGE THE STATE, TO WORK FOR ITS DOWNFALL, THESE ARE THE ONES WHO CAN EARN THE RIGHT TO CALL THEMSELVES ANARCHISTS. WE DO NOT PRETEND TO BE ABLE TO FORESEE EVERYTHING THAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE NEXT FEW DECADES, BUT THERE WILL BE LITTLE TIME FOR THE HALF-HEARTED. PUNK COULD NEVER SURVIVE. IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HISTORICAL FACTS RACED UP + KILLED IT OUTRIGHT, LEAVING PLENTY OF MEAT FOR C.B.S. + E.M.I. TO PICK OUT OF ALL THE PEOPLE AT ANY GIG, HOW MANY OF THOSE WITH SHINY HAIRCUTS + SLOGAN COVERED JACKETS WILL BE ON THE STREETS WHEN THE ARMY IS SENT IN TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO RESIST? WHAT RELEVANCE WILL THE BANDS + THEIR FOLLOWERS HAVE THEN? STILL, PERHAPS, WE ARE GOING AHEAD TO FAST. AFTER ALL THINGS AREN'T SO BAD YET. ITS ONLY WILLTANTS WHO GET NICKED. WE'VE ALL STILL GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO ENJOY OURSELVES. AT LEAST ANOTHER TWO YEARS.

» ...KICK IT TILL IT BREAKS! «

THIS PAGE COURTESY OF  
 @ YOUTH FED., 60/21 BOOKS,  
 121 KILTON RD. SE 24



Prison

FRI 18th

FEB

4 x 3

Pen.



MORE LIKE A FALCON THAN A YAK!

## H.U.C.A.C. LEGAL ADVISOR PROSECUTES UNEMPLOYED MAN

YESTERDAY (Thursday 17th Feb.) a man appeared in Hastings Magistrates' Court charged with 'making a false representation to obtain Unemployment Benefit'. This man's 'crime' was that he had not declared earnings of approximately £370. His explanation to the magistrates was simple and direct-- he was a married man with two children to support and he needed the money. I'm sure that all those of us who have to exist either on the pittance that the so-called Welfare State allows or on the slave wages of local employers will wholeheartedly sympathise with his situation. As representatives of the local establishment, it goes without saying that the magistrates did not sympathise with him at all; the case has been adjourned for two weeks so that he can obtain legal aid because they are considering sending him to jail.

The solicitor prosecuting in this case on behalf of the DHSS was a certain Mr Derek Millgate of Young, Coles & Langdon, who seem to be the firm that does most of the prosecutions for DHSS locally.

You have to be pretty low to do this sort of work, but in Mr Millgate's case it is even worse because this person is a member of the management committee of Hastings Unemployed & Claimants Advice Centre, and is retained by that body to give legal advice to the unemployed. Not that he does it for nothing of course, it's all done through Legal Aid so he doesn't lose out on the money he needs to keep him in the style to which he is no doubt accustomed.

With 'friends' like this do the unemployed need enemies?

Steve.



A roving reporter writes.....

## SHEFFIELD PEACE CENTRE

Just over a month ago, a group of thirty anarchists, pacifists, anti-militarists and feminists occupied the old Masonic Hall in Sheffield city centre. The building, which is owned by the Council, was most recently used as a computer/storage centre, although it previously housed the registry office. It is ideally placed-- right behind the Town Hall, and opposite the main library-- and it is a fair size.

The group which has arisen out of the squat is "Sheffield Peace Action". However, they do not wish to dominate the Centre-- they want everyone to become involved and contribute what they can.

### -problems-

Of course the occupation is not without its problems. Both the local CND group and the City Council find the squat embarrassing and both want the squatters to leave as soon as possible. The electricity was cut soon after the squatters moved in. And "Seditious Whispers" from Doncaster report that the leader of Sheffield's Nuclear-Free Zone Committee, Roger Barton, said on the radio that those involved were probably paid to discredit the peace movement!

The Council wants the group out because they want to sell the building to Mansfield Brewery. As this won't be finalised for some weeks, the squatters are not prepared to move out just yet. Sheffield City Council, however, are treating the matter as urgent.

### -well organised-

I visited the Peace Centre last weekend and was impressed. The power is now back on (I'm not sure whether it's legal or not), and although cold, the atmosphere and people are very friendly. Most of the people I spoke to in Sheffield are supporting the Peace Centre, and at least two and a half thousand people have signed their petition.

(cont'd on next page.....)



PAGE 3--more about the Peace Centre:

"Sheffield Peace Action" seem to have got themselves well organised. There is currently an anti-nuclear exhibition at the Centre, including some of Pete Kemard's photo-montages, and a "nuclear shelter" built to the specifications in "Protect and Survive". Laugh?-- I could have cried.

The Centre also houses a whole-food stall, and an anti-nuclear book stall. They are certainly not lacking enthusiasm, and anyone is welcome to drop in for a coffee and a chat.

Letters of support should be sent to:

94 Surrey Street, Sheffield I.  
Or if you can, why not visit them and offer to help? We'll try to keep you informed on future developments.

Kate.

Footnote: "Seditious Whispers" in a free @ paper-- send SAE if you want a copy to:

49a Market Place, Doncaster, S. Yorks  
DNI INJ.

oooooooooooo

There wasn't an edition of FOISON PEN last week, basically because absolutely nuffink happened, and the only contributions we received that week were the poem on the next page, and the following reply to our lead story the previous week:

THE ARTHUR BLACKMAN CLINIC (continued):-

The distressing experience suffered by Christina (Blackman Clinic article 4th Feb. issue) who miscarried after having been fitted with a coil (I.U.D.) while pregnant, and the treatment meted out to her by the doctors at the above clinic, must surely be one of the worst incidents connected with that place.

I also had a coil fitted there, and after experiencing considerable pain and discomfort, it was removed. It certainly seems to me that the doctors there will palm off one or other of the devices to be obtained at the clinic on women who go there for help and advice without any consideration as to which form of contraceptive is personally suited to them.

At the time that I was fitted with the coil I felt quite ill with a horrible sickly pain and had to lie down for about half an hour before leaving the clinic and then had to have a taxi home and go straight to bed, so I would strongly advise anyone contemplating having a coil fitted not to go unaccompanied to the clinic.

Also at the time I was informed by the doctors that the next two periods would be heavy but would settle down after that, and was given a leaflet saying the same thing, but I found this to be untrue: after four very painful and uncomfortable months I went back to the clinic, where the doctor tried to tell me that I had been told six months, even after I pointed out that the leaflet also said two, which bears out what Christina said about women attending there being treated like morons.

Anyway, I was given tablets to ease the pain and was asked to persevere with the coil and see how I got on. Finally I had to go to my G.P. with a severe pain in my stomach and extending down to my right knee.

It turned out that I had an infection through the presence of the coil. So back I went to the clinic, where the doctor admitted that infections can be caused by the coil, but I was not told this prior to being fitted.

Needless to say I had had quite enough by this time and asked for it to be removed. I can only add that if anyone is thinking of using this particular device-- Be Warned.

Dee.

oooooooooooo

Of course, the easy answer is not to do it with men hee hee! No but seriously folks, if any more of you out there can bear to put pen to paper and let other readers know about your experiences with this grotty place, your contributions will be more than welcome. And of course, if anybody involved on the other side of the counter, so to speak, of the clinic cares to write in and let us have their opinion of the place, we will gladly print those views.....no censorship round here-- all articles are printed verbatim, so sharpen up those pencils and get writing. The address is at the top of the next page.



Contributions of every variety are always welcomed to grace these pages: articles, criticism, cartoons, poems etc.....and, of course, MONEY (as if you didn't know). Send your contributions to us c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea (more sewage than sea this week though), Sussex. And in the meantime while you're thinking about that.....

#### Alley Sleepers

Sore boys from Fourth and Todd,  
Creep past the walls of board,  
How much can you afford?  
Is patience joy's reward today?  
All I see are waiting faces,  
Seeking grace in forgotten places,  
Sitting where the rats run races--  
Please stay,  
All I see today are alley sleepers,  
Street prophets and hydrant leapers,  
Are we still lost, are losers keepers  
Today?

Alley sleepers give to me what  
You can,

Try, believe I am a man  
Try, I'm sure you can, try,  
Senorita Calo, acts so silly,  
Comes from a high born family,  
Picks her daughters blackheads out  
With a spoon, by the moon,  
To the tune of a mariachi  
Trumpet playing, and soon,  
Sideward glances flashing shyly,  
Grabbing fits, I dearly sigh he,  
Didn't even leave her, her heart,  
That's no start.

Alley sleepers on the bottle,  
Trashcan pilgrims, backstreet fondle,  
Sidewalk hunted, hunt yourselves a  
Helping hand, if you can,  
You can if you try, try,  
The lane and armless peddler walking,  
Streets so black he's always falling,  
Rags upon his scabby back,  
Bottom lip hangs loose and slack,  
Sweet Lena and her loose girls,  
On the corner sell their pearls,  
Lena, will you give me your love for  
Free?

There's just the matter of a fee.

Gwine, give her what you can,

Try to believe I am a man,

Try, I'm sure you can try.

Alley sleepers, Alley sleepers,

Alley sleepers,  
Graveside weepers, graveside weepers,  
Graveside weepers,

Give me peace, keep me warm,

Tell me I was and am born,

Call me King Lear.

And someone, aimless as if a stumbling

Dream,

Crashing, blindly on the cobbles,

Squawking in his fears,

Feels out helpless in his night.

Mexico City lady, come to me at last,  
Please say you don't mind, say you  
Are fast.

Cast the wayside gambler on the leader,  
Alley sleeper,

Cats freeze, bearing fleas,  
And silent crippling in a fire,  
You bring the very sweet desire,  
Hey mister dollar-makin' money-minded  
Clown.

Do you think you could take my  
Testimonial down?

Haven't any sources,

Haven't any shoes,

Ask the gringoes on the side road,  
The ones that sing the blues.

And hey Mrs Serrelence, Keep

Your dog at home,

Don't let your peech roam, no,

For, no telling who he might

Meet among the streets,

Hello, I'm glad to see you Keats,

Did you make it in good time?

Bawdy, blinking, baby giving,

Running rhyme

To the honky tonking fineness

Of her music.

O h Lena, open up to your little

Dan,

Try, believe I am a man,

It's easy, I'm sure you can,

See how those three mice ran?

Oh Lena, open up, don't leave me

You fan,

I really think you can,

Try, believe I am a man.

Alley sleeper, graveside weeper,

Dead eyes, staring black,

Sombreed sailors in red sacks,

Dolly mio, dolly,

Oh Lena, seen her, bring me back to

you,

Don't leave me to school, -

Lena, Lena, Lena.

They walk in geriatric jungles,

Electric bedsteads,

Sidewalk congregations they slowly

Grow,

And even the pavement princes fear

To tread

Where the alley sleepers, cruising,

go.

Anon.

(tsk tsk...bit sexist in places, eh?)



We're always keen to promote the exciting things going on in the local music scene, so it was with great pleasure that we received the following missive:

Dear P.P.,

I trust you have all read last Saturday's good old Hastings Observer, in which case you will be aware that my stirring march which is a tribute to the brave lads of the SAS, entitled "The Winged Dagger", has been recorded and will be released next month on an L.P. of that name.

I realise that the SAS are unpopular in some circles because of their involvement in incidents of murder, torture, robbery and explosions both here and other places such as Northern Ireland, but it's all in such a good cause, I mean these things have to be

done to preserve our freedom and all that,

So naturally I wish to promote my great dedication as extensively as possible through the T.V. and papers etc. I do hope that you will urge all your readers to purchase as many copies of this great work as possible as our gallant lads will receive half the royalties through their benevolent fund. As they do the state's dirty work they need all the charity they can get don't they, and of course the other half will be mine; the more the better.

So do watch out for me on the box: perhaps they will have me on Top of the Pops (they better), and do buy as many of the L.P.s as you can-- in fact it's advisable, as the lads have been known to get nasty when things don't go their way, and they're very handy with daggers you know (winged and otherwise) so watch out.

Bye for now dears!

Lou Crapperton.

\*\*\*\*\*

WIN "THE WINGED DAGGER" L.P. IN OUR SUPER EASY-TO-ENTER COMPETITION! All you have to do is burn down just five, yes-- ONLY five, Army recruiting offices, then complete the following slogan in no more than two words:

"The SAS are a bunch of murdering thugs because....." Then send your entries to reach us by no later than midnight yesterday, and you could be the proud winner of this super L.P. to make into a super ashtray, a super frisbee or a super dieter's dinner plate (all the food falls through the hole so you don't eat so much!) ALL OK

Come the day we have something good to say about the DHSS, then I'll eat my cat! She's spared for one week anyway..... Grunt....snort....snuffle....dribble..... it's.....

## The Horror at Heron House

As I have been unemployed for six months,

I recently received a letter from the

DHS telling me that I was due to see

the Unemployment Review Officer.

I went along to Heron House at

the appointed time and was invited into

a small office by a man clad in jeans

and heavy-knit jumper: the atmosphere

was supposed to be informal, and with no

table between us I began to feel quite

comfortable. I must admit that I was

pleasantly surprised; previous experien-

ces at Heron House interviews have made

me feel on edge and humiliated.

We discussed my career history

since I left school three years ago, and

my problems in finding a job. Shock number

one came when I was told that I was

"smart (i.e. well-dressed) and attractive",

and so I should do well in interviews.

This remark insults both my intelligence

and my sex. I'm sure that the interviewer

would not think to tell a male that he

should do well because he is "handsome".

I said nothing, though, as I

didn't want to argue with him-- I thought

I would be better off (literally) by

staying on the right side. (P.T.O.)

The Horror continued.....

At the end of the fifteen minutes or so, I was asked if I had anything more to say or ask, and I replied that I didn't. With that, he saw me out of the room, saying "That's a pity, I like talking to pretty young ladies...." I was outraged, and just about managed to mutter, through gritted teeth, something about my brains being more important.

The man I saw was one Mr Willis. He's a sexist pig (tut tut--speciesism!) in a position of power over the unemployed. Beware!

### Hexachord Fantasy.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cheers to SAGE for your letter concerning Wilf Potter (Bigot of the Year-P.P. 28th Jan.)'s comments on homosexuality-- as it basically reiterates what was written by way of a reply in that week's ish, I decided it probably wasn't really necessary to print it (gulp....there goes the non-editorial policy!).

I have written to the jolly old Press Council to lodge a complaint, but as yet have received no reply-- maybe they've been inundated with complaints about him! Thanks again for your letter anyway.

And thanks also to all those of you who have contributed both articles and cash. Anarchic blessings upon you all.

Don't forget Hastings @'s meet every Sunday evening at Mr Cherry's about 9:15.... The Jazz Caverners also play there every Tuesday evening, and are appearing at HUCAC on Friday 4th March.

Poison Pen was printed & published by Hastings Free Press; typing mistakes by me. STOP PRESS!!!! I've just this very second received the reply from the Press Council.....more news will no doubt follow next issue.



From The Skiffed Assistant ... To



THURSDAY 14th APRIL 1983

FREE (or 5p)

# POISON PEN

HASTINGS' ANARCHIST JOURNAL

## JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE PARANOID...

Have you ever wondered how much Auntie State cares about us? And how much time she spends keeping an eye on us?

Well, all you have to do to find out is to ask a strange looking gentleman who has recently taken to driving around St Leonards near Markwick Terrace!

His name is Clive Higgins (whoops sorry Clive, have I blown your cover?) and he works for a special branch of the state (geddit?) whose job is to keep a careful watch on various revolutionary tendencies just to check that they're not getting clever enough to achieve their aims.

However, Clive's problem is that he is not very good at spying on innocent people, and if you are in need of Clive's attention it is not long before you get to know the hideous little toad.

I think Clive needs some ideas about how to do his job. How about a new car (Clive always drives a white Marina)? How about a few disguises (although he has a new hair-style-- a ginger afro)?

So if you see this spotty little creep driving a white Marina at five miles an hour near Markwick Terrace, making notes and sometimes taking photos, just trot up to him with a Poison Pen under your arm and say "You are Clive Higgins and I claim 25". You never know, he may pay you to stop blowing his cover.

(Love the new bonnet Clive, same colour as your teeth!)

Red Ken.

ooo DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE NOT OUT TO GET YOU!

APART FROM PARANOIA, THIS WEEK WE ALSO HAVE  
CONTINUING DEBATE ON PHOTOGRAPHY & THE SEX SHOP,  
ANIMAL LIBERATION NEWS & ALL SORTS OF BITS 'N' BOBS!

ANIMAL LIBERATION:::::

I felt I had to write to you after forcing myself to read a bit more of "Slaughter of the Innocent". I have to force myself to read it because it upsets and distresses me so much when I do, yet it only describes activities which are carried out every day not only in Britain but in many other uncivilised countries, in laboratories claiming to 'benefit' the likes of you and me.

Here is a brief quote from one Charles Livon:

"To subdue a very recalcitrant cat, one resorts to partial suffocation by hanging, or to administration of curare. Since it is difficult to bind a cat's short mouth, the best way to muzzle it is by sewing the lips together (the Walther Method)."

I must recommend Hans Reusch's "Slaughter of the Innocent" to anyone who honestly wishes to broaden their knowledge. It has many excerpts from vivisectionists and medical manuals and is written as objectively as possible when dealing with a subject that provokes emotion as the use of animals as laboratory tools does. Too many people who believe that vivisection is humane are largely restricted to medical experiments which are justifiable (?) for the welfare of our 'superior' race. I cannot believe that anyone with a grain of humanity or mercy could condone such acts after reading this book. It is not merely a series of descriptions of the sufferings of a few furry and cuddly animals which tugs at the heart strings; it explores the reasons behind this controversial issue.

One experiment which is often performed is that of artificially creating siamese twins by surgically uniting two or more animals. Despite the fact that it is bound to fail owing to the immunological reactions of the animals, vivisectionists seem determined to persevere with this pointless exercise. Austrian professor H. Pfeiffer gives some 'valuable' advice: "As the animals that have been surgically united have a tendency, especially in the first few hours, to attack each other, inflicting sometimes mortal injuries, this can be prevented by sewing the cheek of each animal to the corresponding front paw by means of a strong silk thread so tightly that the mouths of the two animals can neither reach each other nor bite."

After being sewn together the animals were also bound together with twine for several days but they managed to break free by tearing the skin. They were then sewn together also by the muscles and the belly. The animals managed to tear themselves free in the same manner as before, lacerating the tissues and the peritoneum, and spilling the innards. The next step was to totally immobilise the animals with a plaster cast. This also failed owing to the development of deformations of the chest causing death to the animals.

This, to me, is utterly senseless and abhorrent and anyone sharing my opinion would be more than welcome on the national demo on April 24th, the World Day for Laboratory Animals. There is a coach leaving Hastings at 8am for South London (Clapham). There will be a ten-mile march/sponsored walk (with cars following for those who can't manage it) ending up outside two laboratories. The coach will cost £3 per head and the more support we can get the better. I hasten to add that the demo will be a passive one and verbal or physical attacks on the police are not the purpose of the exercise (shame!--T'pist).

If anyone is interested please contact Carl Turner, tel 445988.

Animal Aid hold meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:30 at the Citizen's Advice Bureau and new faces are always welcomed.

Deb-Deb.

(more on next page.....)



From previous page.....

P.P.S. Last year on April 24th there was a demo to Porton Down where experiments are carried out for warfare, including exposing animals to radiation and nerve gas. There is now a peace camp being set up outside it which is both CND and Animal Rights. More news of that when Hastings and Bexhill Animal Aid group organise a weekend there which is on the cards at the moment.

P.P.S. Weeks ago P.P. showed distaste for punks wearing swastikas alongside anarchy symbols. Also in the same ish you said that people believing that anarchy is chaos just because the word is misused are foolish. I quite agree that a lie cannot become a truth merely because it is repeated often enough, so why should a Jewish peace sign change meaning because the Nazis chose to misuse it? Although I realise that dedicated anarchists must get tired of certain punks posing under the anarchist label I dislike generalisations and the danger of creating barriers between people who have basically the same ideals but different approaches to them. As 'Christ' said: what is wrong with dancing at gigs? (I've seen you do it anyway Melita, so there!)

Yours good humouredly & not really offendedly,

Debbie.

P.P.S. Come to think of it Melita you didn't write the article in the first place so I think I'd better shut up.

@@@@@

#### A REPLY:!!!!

You can't just dissociate a symbol from the people who use it and the use to which it is put. The swastika in its original form appears in the religious art of many cultures including Indian and native American. When the nazis adopted it they reversed it, so the symbol with which we are so familiar today represents Nazism and nothing else. Do you really think that punks who wear jackets with swastikas on them are even aware of its origin? I would be very surprised. It is just not on to wear the emblem of a racist authoritarian movement alongside an anarchist symbol and people who do so should think very carefully about what they are doing.

And, to quote from William L. Shirer's 'The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich':

'What the party lacked, he (Hitler) saw, was an emblem, a flag, a symbol, which would express what the new organisation stood for and appeal to the imagination of the masses, who, as Hitler reasoned, must have some striking banner to follow and fight under....The hooked cross-- the hakenkreuz-- of the swastika, borrowed though it was from more ancient times, was to become a mighty and frightening symbol of the Nazi Party and ultimately of Nazi Germany.'

Hence there is a world of difference between a symbol which is misused through ignorance and one which is deliberately manipulated to pervert its original meaning.

M.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

#### SEX SHOP, PORNOGRAPHY ETC ETC: The Case Continues:!!!!

TIEFISSED'S PREFACE: This article would have appeared in P.P. two weeks ago had I not delayed it by referring back to the author as to whether she would not like to direct her comments to the source of her complaint, by writing to the Hastings News. However, she confirmed that she would like us to print it:

I used to think that I lived in a country where there was freedom for all, Freedom of Speech in particular, with places such as Speakers' Corner of Hyde Park for the benefit of people who wish to 'air' their views.

Well, it seems to me that when we want to practise this 'Freedom', it is quenched by our beloved press, who decide what they will and will not print in their papers for the rest of the town to read.

They have given a very one-sided view of the recent Sex Shop debate with the Council saying that the petition was mainly due to 'Religious Hysteria'. Not quite true, Sorry!

I was annoyed to see in the Hastings News that the Women's Group were not mentioned at all. Annoyed particularly as Yours Truly was the actual speaker at the thing. (Or did I dream it). But mostly that what we had to say was not passed on to the people of the town. PTQ...

Sex shop continued.....

I must add here to get 'me' straight, I am actually training to be a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church, and do actually agree with all that the Dr and Canon said at the meeting in protest to the shop. I am a Christian myself; but not an ostrich. I do not bury my head in the Bible, too scared to go beyond it to the world outside (actually, I bring it along too); I do wonder though if the Press is not acting slightly in that way. Perhaps they don't think their readers are strong enough to read what we said at the meeting. We brought facts to the Council that were not too pleasant to read out. (I should know). But it has to be looked at that way.

Perhaps the Hastings News is hiding behind the old, old theory that anything Christian or Sacred is soft and wishy washy, and doesn't hold true for today. This gives the wrong picture of the meeting entirely.

We mentioned the physical effect of rape on a woman:

"Women do not enjoy being raped. They do not enjoy the physical damage to the cervix and the womb that rape means. They do not enjoy the haemorrhaging that results from internal damage. They do not enjoy the emotional suffering that rape can mean to them for the rest of their lives."

Too much to take? Try this one:

"Pornography teaches men and boys to associate sex with violence, and to have no respect at all for women. Pornography is the theory, rape is the practise"

"Porn is the recognition of the failure of some men to want to express their sexuality in ways that are loving, kind and gentle. We can see that women and children are being abused and ill-treated for these men's satisfaction."

It could be that these truths are too hard for the people of Hastings to take. But unless the truth is known, no-one will really know it.

Do they not realise that women of today are getting angry!!! We will speak out, and will be heard. It will take more than a blank spot in the paper to shut us up.

Terry.

A REPLY:::::

Well, it seems a bit silly to be making excuses and writing on behalf of the News journalists, but since your criticisms appeared in our organ, I suppose some reply is in order.

Firstly, let me dispel any notions that the Great British Press in any of its manifestations is 'free'. Newspapers are printed for their own benefit and profit, not for any philanthropic reasons (with the notable exceptions of the 'underground' press), and will publish whatever they consider will best achieve those ends. Even 'open access' papers such as P.P. are not totally 'free'-- the reader's view of what s/he reads can easily be manipulated by layout, juxtaposition, emphasis etc of articles, as well as the problem many smaller publications have with distribution.

There is no such thing as 'Free Speech'. Oh yeah, Speakers' Corner might seem a really great way of getting your point of view over-- to guggles of bemused spectators, half of whom probably can't even speak English, and all the plain clothes cops who hang around there. You can even have your photo taken by the Special Branch just for listening at Speakers' Corner. Sure, you've got Free Speech alright-- as long as you say the right things.

More on next page. ....



Now, I'm not wearing my mind-reader's hat at the moment, but I would very strongly doubt that the Hastings News' intention in its reportage of the Committee meeting was to shelter its readers. As I wrote on the previous page, papers exist for their own benefit, and from a purely journalistic point of view, the News reported the most newsworthy story from the meeting, that of the solicitor's objections to the procedure. Why the Women's Group was not mentioned I do not know; I didn't write the article. But it's a bit ridiculous to expect a paper to report what is said by every contributor to every meeting: if it were done to please you, then it would have to hold for everyone, which would result in the paper becoming a weighty Hansard-type publication.

On the subject of christianity, much of the blame for the position of women both in modern society and throughout history can be laid at its door. Kramer and Sprenger liberally sprinkle their "Malleus Maleficarum" of 1486 with biblical and other religious references as justification for their horrific persecution of innocent women: Many thousands of women have been murdered, tortured, dominated and oppressed "in nomine Patrie"; indeed, many of the laws and mores which shape our patriarchal, hierarchical society (of which sex shops are a part) are based on so-called christian principles and the bible.

@@@@@@

It's good to see a debate opening up on pornography. But some things need to be clarified. All over the country Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW) are attacking porn shops, video shops and cinemas which sell degrading and brutalising pictures of women. Sometimes the attacks are legal. Some women (Angry Women) make illegal attacks. The reason for these attacks is that, even if all porn is not directly violent to women, as in the "snuff" movies and the "nasties" in which women are seen to pieces, hacked at and otherwise murdered, all pornography is in fact violent to women because it depicts women as passive, submissive sex objects. Women in WAVAW maintain that the objectification of all people is a form of violence: it is a suppression of the individual will to self-determination and freedom.

We feel that many of the reasons for the flowering of the porn industry (which now makes more profits than the record and film industry put together) lie in the social definitions of sexuality: definitions imposed by a violent and hierarchical state; the way sex education is taught in schools and portrayed in the media, etc. The insistence is always on heterosexual sex with penetration: males are accorded privilege if they have a big cock, can get a hard on quickly and easily and maintain it for a long time. Competitions in schools between boys emphasize this:

Continued on next page...

and here it is.....

public wanking competitions in boys' public schools are another form of imposing hierarchy within an already hierarchical system: biggest is supposed to be best. Girls meanwhile are encouraged to lie back with their legs open and wait to be penetrated. Girls and women are denied knowledge of their own sexuality: many if not most do not know that sexual pleasure is located in the clitoris and that penetration is not only not necessary to female sexual pleasure, it can in fact be harmful. Penetration can cause cervical cancer, vaginal infection and unwanted pregnancy.

Many women now are challenging the whole socially approved norm of sexuality by becoming lesbian. In doing so they are implicitly denying the age old assumption that penetration is the thing, and they are also implicitly telling men that they are not interested in phallocentric sexuality. Because of this, lesbians are often called separatists, man haters or castrators. The fact is, lesbians are in the forefront of the feminist revolution because they have challenged the fundamental assumptions of femininity by taking their sexuality into their own hands (s) and defining it themselves.

We feel that it is up to men to change. We feel that men are capable of change: they are capable of challenging their own internalised concepts of heterosexuality and penetration sex. It is time they stopped allowing a militaristic, capitalist, hierarchical society to persuade them to be aggressive and dominating in bed as well as on the battlefield. If men would demand an end to sexual repression in the deepest sense, and explore their feelings of softness, tenderness, etc. for each other and develop feelings of respect and mutual support for women and for lesbians, then we would begin to achieve the fundamental revolution in human relations which would surely undermine the whole hierarchical system of man over woman, white over black, class over class, master over slave and man over animal-- which is the hell we live in today.

#### Hastings Women Against Violence.

A REPLY::::: Basically I agree with what you say about the nature of pornography but you do not go on to say very clearly how you think it should be combatted except to say that you support both legal and illegal methods. This being the case, I think it would be a good idea to point out that the anarchist objection to legal means (banning porn, closing down "sex shops" and cinemas etc.) is not just a tactical one but one of principle. We do not believe that the state has the right to tell us what to do in any aspect of our lives; we do not in fact believe that the state should continue to exist and we certainly do not believe that after all the crimes against humanity committed by various nation states of the world, they have the right to judge or punish anyone.

No doubt you will not agree with me but personally I think that censorship is at least as dangerous as pornography. By appealing to the state to censor books, magazines, films etc., to deny licences to "sex shops" or to pass harsher sentences on rapists you are recognising the state's right to exist and legitimising its authority.

A brief glance at past events, and indeed present events, will show that when the state intervenes in an area where there is a social problem, it always makes things worse, not better. Alcohol for example. Most people would accept that alcoholism is a serious social problem which needs to be combatted, but does that mean that the answer is to pass a law against alcohol? All you have to do is look at the American experience of prohibition to answer that question. Hundreds of people poisoned by badly made bootleg liquor, vast profits for gangsters, increased police and political corruption and gang warfare in the streets were the results of prohibition.

Similar results arise from the continuing prohibition against "drugs", some of which are more or less harmless and some of which are considerably more dangerous than alcohol. Prostitution, male and female, would be another example. Wouldn't the same apply to porn?

PTO.....



And yet more.....

Alcoholism, prostitution, drug addiction and porn are all symptoms of the sick society we live in. The roots of that sickness lie in authority, hierarchy, competition and inequality. To appeal to the state (which is the ultimate expression of that sickness and exists to keep society in that condition) to alleviate those symptoms will get us nowhere except into more shit. The only answer is a social revolution which will abolish all forms of domination and build a society based on freedom, co-operation, equality and love in which the state will have no place.

Anyway, enough about that. I'll go on to a couple of other points.

No doubt lesbians are often called "separatists, man-haters or castrators" but not by anarchists I hope. However, anarchists, whether they are male or female, gay/het/bi or anything else, cannot but be saddened by the growing element of separatism and man-hating which does exist in the feminist movement and which can have nothing whatever to do with liberation.

When slogans such as "Dead men don't rape" and "Men are mutants" start to achieve acceptance, it is time to speak out. How would the people who support this sort of attitude react to National Front slogans along the lines of "Dead blacks don't mug" or "Blacks are mutants"? If you don't think the two things are equivalent, why aren't they? For further discussion of this issue, see the excellent leading article in the "Anarchist Feminist Magazine".

It seems to me that in your last two paragraphs you are simply standing on heterosexual prejudice against gays on its head and saying that gay relationships (male or female) are actually superior or somehow politically more correct than heterosexual relationships. Probably the least that can be said about this attitude is that it is somewhat presumptuous.

You also go on to imply that sexual oppression is the cause of all other oppression-- race, class etc. This is not how anarchists see it. As I have already said, the basis of oppression lies in authority, hierarchy, competition and inequality. It is in fact those qualities which define an oppressive relationship and they are present in all forms of oppression.

If we are to create a sane and decent world, a society which is free and classless, then it is vital that each oppressed group should fight its oppression in full autonomy in whatever way they see fit, but it is also vital that we should all unite to fight the whole rotten edifice of capitalism and patriarchy, and most especially against the state, which exists for the sole purpose of stifling our protests and keeping us from achieving our freedom and autonomy in all spheres of life.

Steve.

#####  
#####  
#####

COMMENTS, CRITICISMS, IDEAS, REVIEWS

ETC ARE ALL WELCOME FOR INCLUSION IN

POISON PEN. THE COLLECTIVE MEETS EVERY

MONDAY EVENING IN MR CHERRY'S AT 9:15--

BRING YOUR ARTICLES ALONG THEN, OR DROP

THEM IN AT 18a MARKWICK TERRACE, OR AT

HASTINGS FREE PRESS, 92 LONDON ROAD,

ST LEONARDS-ON-SEA, SUSSEX.

P.P. IS AVAILABLE FROM US AT OUR

MEETINGS, OR FROM 18a, OR, IF YOU'RE

LUCKY, FROM THE INFO RACK IN THE PUBLIC

LIBRARY. IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE SOME

COPIES TO DISTRIBUTE TO THEIR FRIENDS

OR NEIGHBOURS, GET IN TOUCH.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN POISON PEN ARE

THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS AND DO

NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF

THE P.P. COLLECTIVE OR HASTINGS @ GROUP.

WE DO NOT CENSOR OR CHANGE ARTICLES

EXCEPT WHEN THEY DON'T MAKE SENSE SO

PUT PEN TO PAPER AND GET SCRAWLING!

#####  
#####  
#####  
#####  
#####  
#####  
#####  
#####

## OUR RADIO BUSTED

On Wednesday 23rd March at 9.30pm the police and Home Office raided a flat in Deptford South London. They seized a transmitter and other equipment. After 4 failed attempts the Home Office had at last got Our Radio! The 5 week hunt had used 4 carloads of men, a van, use of tracking equipment, radio, night binoculars, phone tapping and heavy backing from police forces across London, even the police helicopter was used. In all probably £30,000 was spent to seize a £150 transmitter...An open access pirate which included Radio Solidarnosc (half in Polish), Women on the Waves, Gaywaves a magazine programme called The Message, (which in part covered news of London's 40,000 squatters)...future plans were to include shows made by Black People's Action Group (whose premises were bombed by fascists recently), a Greenham support group and many music projects. A recent public meeting by Our Radio was well attended, but they need help. They want all sympathisers to send a little cash so they can continue to!

OUR RADIO, BM Box 103 FM, London WC1N 3XX

## FREE THE AIRWAVES

The first FTA Bulletin is available:

Box CCR c/o the Bath House,  
Gwydir Street, Cambridge

## COMMUNITY RADIO CONFERENCE

April 8th & 9th in Sheffield.  
Write Common Sound, 87 the Wicker,  
Sheffield S3 tel 0742 22791/738572

## The Peace Protesters GND Prefers To Ignore

Two "counter-cruise cosmic carnival" protesters who knocked down several posts at Greenham Common were given 3 month custodial sentences. The group caused nearly £10,000 worth of damage to a perimeter fence while armed with clubs and sledge-hammers. They threatened and threw stones at police who tried to stop them. The carnival had no connection with the Greenham women's peace camp.

Source: READING @s



## HISTORY OF ATTACKS

Wed Dec 15th 82, O.R. Transmitter seized in Kilburn. One person arrested and later fined £80, equipment confiscated. Off air for 5 weeks (rebuilding).

Wed Feb 23rd 83, tower block in Bermondsey raided. O.R. escape by running down 15 floors and hiding in a cupboard.

Wed March 2nd 83, full show goes out but Home Office watch with night glasses & a police helicopter "buzzes" about. Dept.

Wed March 9th 83, in Camden after 1 hour a raid but O.R. in disguise get away.

Wed March 16 83 after barely 1/2 an hour on air, O.R. hide their equipment safely & escape from a North London site as 5 van loads of Home Office await police backup.

Wed March 23rd 83. Using Deptford again, O.R. set up a dummy transmitter which contained a light bulb, 2 cans of lager, and a note "Better luck next time Eric, here's a consolation prize". Eric Gotts is the head of the Home Office pirate squad. Police come straight to the flat after Home Office observe with night glasses. Equipment seized, detain the occupant for 3 hours then illegally evict him.

OUR RADIO have produced a pamphlet: HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN PIRATE RADIO STATION. The first edition has sold out so a second issue is planned: BCM Box

BCM Box 103FM, London WC1N 3XX





REVIEW (of sorts)::::: SIREN THEATRE COMPANY in "FROM THE DIVINE..." /HUCAC/9.4.'83

Well I've been left holding the baby (ugh!) on this one, 'cause nobody else knows what to say about it other than that it was excellent. Siren's previous visits to Hastings-- "Mama's Gone a-hunting" and "Curfew"-- have all been well received, and this occasion was no exception, a full house braving HUCAC's semi-arctic cold, and incredibly uncomfortable chairs.

Siren are a brilliantly versatile company, interspersing scenes with songs, changing roles convincingly-- in fact it's easy to forget that there are only three women in the company-- and using the minimum of props to maximum effect.

The storyline of "From the Divine..." concerns a wartime ENISA troupe of three women and their manager, Harry, a ventriloquist's dummy. Unfortunately for them, the patriotic morale-boosting show for the troops starts to go haywire with the intervention of an angel: powerless to stop what is happening to them, the players find themselves acting out some shockingly anti-militarist sketches for the lads.

Apart from the anti-war message, Siren tackle the oppression and stereotyping of women, sexism of language and draw parallels between war and marriage ("go together like a gun and carriage"), mercilessly attacking all the right targets. All in all, a highly enjoyable, amusing and thought-provoking evening. Another goodie.

melita.

Coming up soon at the Centre: "The Three Sisters go to Moscow"—apparently a spoof on Chekhov's "Three Sisters". 8pm Thursday 28th April. Bring thermal undies.

Also we passive consumers are promised a play by another women's theatre company, but there are no details as yet. Watch this space.....

[illegible]

BRIGHTON & HOVE  
UNEMPLOYED WORKERS CENTRE  
DEMONSTRATION

THURSDAY 28th APRIL  
MARCH TO THE TOWN HALL TO DEMAND A  
NEW UNEMPLOYED CENTRE. PHONE (0273) 600881  
FOR DETAILS. ASSEMBLE AT THE LEVEL 1PM.  
ENTERTAINMENTS, SPEAKERS + ANARCHIC FUN!  
ORGANISED BY BRIGHTON + HOVE UNEMPLOYED  
WORKERS UNION, 4 COALBROOK RD, BRIGHTON.

COME & PLAY "SPOT THE SPECIAL BRANCH" at our new anarcho centre, situated in the delightfully tasteful Markwick Terrace (18a--basement). Open Tuesday evening 6-8 and Friday afternoon 2-5; get your P.P. hot off the press is you're lucky!

Also purveyors of anarcho papers and books: Anarchy Mag, Freedom, Black Flag, Anarchist-Feminist Mag; "ABC of Anarchism" £1.50, "Stirner's Egoism" £1.50, "Towards a Citizens Militia" £1.50, "Malatesta's Anarchy" 75p, "The Struggle Against Fascism" 50p, "Socialism, Anarchism & Feminism" 30p, "Who Guards the Guards?" £1.25.....and more.

Many back issues of Poison Pen are available, as well as a library of @ papers, books & pamphlets.

Not finished yet!! As well as all the aforementioned, we also have a selection of wholefoods on sale-- rice, barley, beans, muesli, trail mix, etc etc. so come along and have a browse and a cup of tea sometime.

~~~~~

NO MORE PEACE CHAIN LETTERS PLEASE! WE'RE FED UP WITH GETTING THE BLOODY THINGS.

IF ANYONE SENDS US ANY MORE, THEY'LL GET THEIR BLEEDIN' 'EAD KICKED IN OK?

~~~~~

P  
o  
i  
s  
o  
n  
e  
n  
w  
a  
s  
p  
r  
i  
n  
t  
e  
&  
p  
u  
b  
l  
i  
s  
h  
e  
d  
b  
y  
Hastings  
Free  
Press

xxxxxxxx

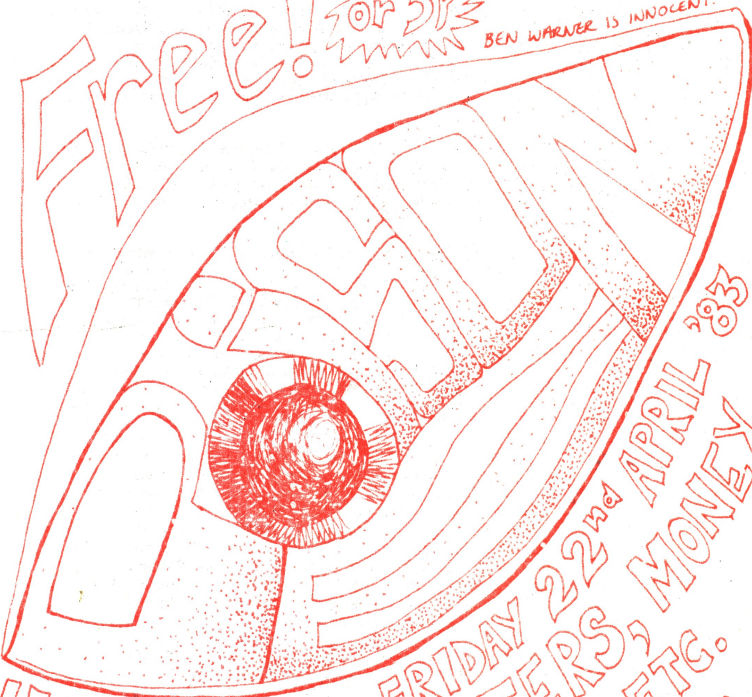
Back to the special branch!





Free! or 5p

BEN WARNER IS INNOCENT!



FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL '83  
LETTERS, MONEY,  
ARTICLES ETC.  
ALL WELCOME.

HASTINGS  
WEEKLY

PAPER

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED  
BY HASTINGS FREE PRESS  
AT 180 MARLBOROUGH  
TERRACE, ST LEONARDS,  
SUSSEX.

ISSUE  
THIS  
DOUG WAKEFIELD  
YOUTH TRAINING  
SCHEME PARTY  
LABOUR AND  
ANIMALS  
ETC

ELECTION TIME IS NEARLY ON US AGAIN (local elections on May 5th, general election 'soon') and so the grand old British pastime of vote hunting is once again in season. Last Thursday (14th) Ian Pearson, the Labour party parliamentary candidate for Bexhill and Battle, spoke at a public meeting organised by Animal Aid on Labour's policy towards animal welfare. It was perfectly obvious that he had no personal interest in the subject whatsoever-- in fact he practically said as much.

From the look of him we guessed that he was straight out of university with an economics degree and this was subsequently confirmed. He said that his main interest was in unemployment-- not something he would know much about, in my opinion, as it stuck out a mile that he had never been unemployed, or for that matter done a proper day's work, in his life.

Standing as a Labour candidate for somewhere like Bexhill and Battle can of course only be seen as preparation for greater things to come-- a sort of training ground-- and if you want to be a successful politician you have to learn to grin and bear it and talk to all sorts of people you wouldn't normally give the time of day to (they've all got the vote now, don't you know) even animal rights loonies. So Ian had gone through all his Labour party documents with a fine toothed comb searching for policy on animals and what he came up with was five paragraphs which added up to: banning hunting with hounds, a new Royal Commission on farm animal welfare, stricter controls on vivisection and a halt to live food exports. All very well as far as it goes I suppose you could say-- but who believes politicians anyway?

During his speech he said that the Tories mistreat animals and humans, to which I say quite right, they do indeed; but couldn't the same be said of Labour? Ian was unable to name a single area in which animal welfare was better under the last Labour government than it is under Thatcher. We got the usual politician's guff about "next time"....yes it's always "next time" isn't it? And what about timescale, someone asked; when will all these reforms take place? According to Ian, disarmament and tackling unemployment will come first. Well, seeing as if there is a Labour government next time, there isn't a snowball's chance in hell of them getting rid of nuclear weapons at all, we're going to have a long wait for these measures to be introduced.

I thought he got off quite lightly in the question and answer session that followed his speech, only being really pressed on a couple of issues. In response to a question on the cruelty involved in the dairy industry, he had to admit that there was no chance that the Labour party would speak out on such an issue as there would be no vote in it. An unusually frank admission for an aspiring politician, but I suppose it was just inexperience.

In response to a question about the opposition from the drug industry that any government which tried to legislate against vivisection would have to face, he replied that Labour intended to nationalise it. The drug industry, that is. And vivisection as well, I suppose, since he was not talking about stopping it altogether, just limiting it to "medical" experiments.

He was quite impervious to suggestions that the drug industry was too large (producing far too many different products, many of which are useless or dangerous and pointlessly duplicating many experiments) and that the government would be unwilling to curb its excesses because of the loss of jobs involved. To which I would add that if this hypothetical Labour government did nationalise it, they would not cut it down or restrict it in any way for the very simple reason that they would find its massive profits a way of raising money for their public spending schemes far preferable to raising taxation. It almost goes without saying that if you look at industries that have been nationalised by past.....

Continued on next page...

....Labour administrations, nothing has changed in them in terms of social responsibility or accountability to either the community or the workers in that industry. But it will always be different "next time"-- or so they would have us believe.

It is an unfortunate fact that the animal rights movement suffers from the same tunnel vision that all single-issue campaigns do. An organisation called the Animal Protection Alliance has recently been set up in order to advise people as to which candidates in forthcoming elections are most concerned with animal welfare. In practise, as with the CND's so-called Peace Canvass, this is going to amount to electioneering for the Labour Party. It is sad to think that many people out of a quite genuine concern for animal rights (or nuclear disarmament) are going to take part in the approaching five-yearly ritual of sham democracy known as a general election, thus lending it more credibility than it would otherwise have.

And if Labour win on the backs of these protest votes what then? Things will go on as they are now, maybe worse in some respects; there'll still be poverty, there'll still be militarism, there'll still be pollution of the environment, the vast majority of people will still have no real say in society and of course there will still be exploitation of animals. Would it really be worth it even if Labour did introduce the reforms they are promising? Which I doubt that they would. Anyway, these reforms concern only a tiny part of the oppression of animals. No government will ever take really effective action against vivisection, much less the meat industry.

The only way to achieve animal liberation is to effect a revolutionary change in the whole nature of society that will liberate us all-- and if we are to do this, it will be done in opposition to political power and all who seek it, not by asking for a few paltry reforms.

In animal liberation, as in all other matters, it is direct action (stop eating meat, sabotage hunts, liberate laboratory animals, attack vivisectionists' property etc etc), not voting, which is the way forward.

Steve.

a rose by  
any other  
name.....

In September, Y.O.P. becomes the Y.T.S. (Youth Training Scheme). This is a year-long programme designed to attract employed and unemployed sixteen-year-olds and some unemployed seventeen-year-olds. It is being presented by the Careers Office and careers teachers in schools as an improvement over YOP, because they say it offers not just work experience but work training as well, and those taking part will get a certificate at the end of the year to show what they have achieved.

But the only difference in reality is a change of name. It's still the same miserable £25 for a forty-hour week for the unemployed participants, and those who have a job and join the scheme are likely to get little more.

As for the training, any young person who wants to train for a particular job can surely do so without joining this cheap labour con trick, which offers nothing in the end: in most cases, the dole.



As for the certificate, it sounds all too vague and is not the same as proper qualifications. It all adds up to an exploitation charter for the bosses, and then being what they are, will for the most part take on the next batch of school-leavers if the scheme is extended beyond next year. No doubt careers teachers will do their utmost to induce school-leavers to take part in the YTS, which includes places in the armed forces, amounting to back-door conscription.

I can only hope that this scheme and any other which attempts to put the young unemployed at the disposal of the multinationals never gets properly off the ground as they are surely doomed to failure. I hope all those leaving school this summer including my daughter will tell their careers teachers to get stuffed as far as YTS is concerned.

Dec.

@@@@@

FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....

A letter appeared in the 1st April ish which criticised an article in a previous issue by Annie of the 'Friends of Doug Wakefield'. This is, in part, Annie's reply:

Dear P.P. and supporters everywhere,

I was delighted to see from Bad Friday's edition of P.P. that intellectuals are now writing to you ("Zeno Evil" Plymouth); let me RUSH in to say that the GROUP (Hastings @'s) does not support one prisoner against another (Wakefield--Subcliffe) but in fact your own sweet selves, in giving (accurately) my address, as Friends of Doug Wakefield etc, were in fact publishing, in that particular letter, my own moronic views. I am and ever was a libertarian, believing that everyone is entitled to their own opinion (even when accidentally hiding behind a collective).

Today I received a letter from a LONG term penfriend (cryptic notes occasionally over a year), Adrian Dimmock, of Canon Cockin street, Sunderland, who writes also in Freedom at times. He says he is a libertarian/communist, which sounds closer to Emma Goldman's ideal than many other things but isn't really ANARCHIST. I enclose a VERY IMPORTANT DOCUMENT (oh no you don't-- confused t'pist) written by Carl Harp before he died, that is called "Analysis and Criticism of the George Jackson Brigade's Political Statement" which I hope you can afford to publish and distribute. It says better than anyone has so far, that you are either an anarchist, or you ain't. True communism is NOT about SOLIDARITY (except in emergencies) but individualism.

You have, I hope, read Edward Buca's book "Workuta": SOLIDARITY will surface when needed, among groups of very individual individuals of integrity and wit (I'm a gypsy). The ones that shriek of solidarity in times when it's not needed are often the insecure, weaker people that turn ACCIDENTALLY to a communism that, inside a prison, the same weak character traits turn to an informer.

Continued on P5.....

From P 4.....

Anyway, I digress. As I stated, one prisoner did not attack another. Doug didn't have a clue I'd say what I did. I said that and I was NOT attacking Peter, but the pig who chased him years and never caught him. While he was tidying up the streets for them by killing people that the public would accept as prostitutes (usually a wrong diagnosis but so what) they did NOT (it seems to this individual) pull out all the stops, but again, if they had, would not many people be shrieking that they had been helping with enquiries against their wishes.

I think most of us are like me in that they would be quite pleased if 'they'd' pick up the Rippers of this world but, hypocritically, wouldn't give a word to help them to this end. Just for the record, the 'criminally insane' fellow that 'Zeno Evil' accuses, is one of the few people who treat Peter's as a human being. But then, Doug is NOT a woman, though he used to wish he was, for reasons yet to be fully explained in the book he is now writing with his wife (11th April '83 Annie).

Some points that Zeno makes really excite what little brain I haven't done in already: "The media can sway but not corrupt" he quotes from the Goddess EMMA-- who also said-- sorry I've forgot, that bit about the REVOLUTION being RIGHT but the new government e.g. communism, being WRONG. The written word can only awake that which is within you, what you already KNOW in your heart. It can never hypnotise or corrupt or anything else that only a dominant physical presence can do. There is no personality or charisma about the written word. Only one can see truth (why has Shakespeare lived so long.).

I think Zeno is very hard on P.P. (while obviously thinking you worth putting straight) when saying you think thus or thus. P.P. is my FAVOURITE paper because you see all sides, while only being able to publish that which is SENT (or arrives anyway).

If Doug were "criminally insane" he would be in Broadmoor or Plumpton. The fact that he is not and has NOT been (except for short periods occasionally) suggests that the Home Office knows it is within himself and his own psyche to mature to an acceptably 'normal' person. Peter Sutcliffe's main crime is that he is, to ALMOST the point of insanity, a puritan. He himself really believes the women he'd see 'flirting' in a pub or 'flaunting' themselves sodily along the road were EVIL to the point that he felt he was god's instrument in destroying them, and with it their 'evil'. Not a new thing he invented for court but, according to those who know him, a genuine belief. INSANE or eccentric? To the Arabs maybe merely odd?

But 'Zeno Evil', when P.P. seems to ban all sex shops (actually we don't--T'pist) and all bloods sports etc, they are only doing what they have always done. Deferd the weak. To quote Buce again: "What use the intellectuals in a physical affray" (you--Zeno Evil)-- I've just noticed Zeno's article had an editorial (reads hastily). Heh, I don't suggest (me, Annie again and many 'Friends of' i.e. not Doug himself, whom we've no time to consult) Peter Sutcliffe should go to 'D' suite as a punishment. Hell, if the guy is NOT in contact with other cons much, he's nearly in solitary. If a guy is in solitary anyway, surely 'D' suite at Wakefield Prison is THE bestest way to serve it. OWN lavatory, a T.V. and all kinds of privileges making life easier than being locked in a 'normal' bare cell and only being allowed out to empty the shit can.

Though when I wrote the original I was more worried for other cons than for Peter's comfort, also I (again me-- I haven't discussed this with Doug) personally believe that if the Ripper had had a ripping time stuffing broken bottles up pigs' arseholes instead, he would have been caught earlier, not only because the pig assigned to his case would have, may have, worked harder but because A LOT MORE TAX PAYERS' money could have been diverted to this end, without the tax payer making too much fuss.

Next Subject. I DID notice that you'd put the blurb about the P.O. opening your mail right after my letter-- as a hint to me to stop sending cash? But that would be playing P.O. game-- buying Postal Orders. Look I can't even gave through P.O. with my record, nor open a cheque account at bank. Either you accept the odd £1 or it's nowt.

(Cont. on next page...)

Actually I don't agree with your comment that pornography helps men to be violent (which is why they showed blue movies to soldiers etc in 4-3-'83 issue) (actually it wasn't us who said it--T'pist) The mucky notes me and Doug exchange along with the yards of poetry he writes me of late, seem to help him be a much more stable and gentle character than he ever was before. But then, who could describe the tender notes I sneak in as pornographic? Just coz they burn me fingers.

Right after the "Women Against Violence" article, Melita (bless her) mirrored me feelings on counterectomy. "Breakout" I98I done an article that covered more than the TV documentary. It really does happen here and NOW in this capitalistic country. But so do worse things even lesser known.

I enclose a leaflet from Burnbake: please advertise relevant dates of exhibitions. The one I left in middle of at Mile End, to dash up and marry my beloved, is now over and I sold fings. Unfortunately I had to borrow the bread, no time to ask if I might, to go and rope and tie Dougie, official. However, no-one minds coz it's only me and I pay all debts eventually.

The wedding was OK; kids nicked me some super daffodils for bouquet, Doug was handcuffed to a screw and surrounded by 50 more and two cops, by doing so THEY alerted the press, not me-- I didn't know till 16 hours before wedding hour!!! It was on Radio Solent, Radio Victory, T.V. news and the Daily Mirror etc.

Luvens,

Annie Wakefield.

F.O.D.W. can be contacted at 14 Warren Rd, EIO. Burnbake Art organise exhibitions of prisoners' artwork, and the future exhibitions are as follows:

Now-16th May at Limehouse Library, Commercial Rd, E14; 30th May-18th June at Bethnal Green Library, Cambridge Heath Rd, E2; 20th June- 9th July at Bow Library, Stafford Rd, E3; and 3rd-28th October at Whitechapel Library, High St., E1.

Some more notes on Feminism, Anarchism and Art (or why Dada is dead):

My political life began in the 50s with CND and the anarchist movement. Anarchists then were the only people attacking the school system, the family, prisons, mental hospitals etc. "Anarchy" magazine was full of progressive articles which social reformers have subsequently used.

Then in the 60s anarchist political action became less legal and more militant. Protests over education included sit-ins and thefts of confidential files on students. Squares in urban cities were reclaimed and turned into play areas, large empty houses were squatted, property (such as trendy clothes shops) which was seen to be exploitative and part of the consumerism con, was attacked. Many good anarchist women and men were sent to prison or exile.

Anarchist ideas at this time were influenced by the French "Situationists" who criticised the spectacular society: the society where all you can see is consumer goods and their price: where the workers, students, women etc. (all the potential revolutionary classes) are concerned with spending their time and energy as well as their money, consuming passively (e.g. buying clothes that are "trendy" or "with-it"). Unfortunately the Situationists also had ambiguous attitudes to de Sade and used pornography in order to shock and provoke. Many women were disgusted by this (although agreeing with the anarchist shock-provoke tactic)-- among them an anarchist feminist artist called Monica Shoe (pronounced Shoe) whose revolutionary art would be an example to the would-be women artists of Hastings if only they had the get up and go to find out about it, or her (or anything else).

In the early 70s the women's movement got going and many anarchist women (myself included) moved into feminism, taking with them their anarchist ideas. No leaders, no heroines, no "stars". Commitment to group activity, to consensus politics, to consciousness raising in small groups, to women fighting their own classism, racism



From previous page.....

and sexism, to women facing up to their tendency to be dominated by men, to be passive, to be consumers etc. "The personal is the political" is an anarchist, as well as a famous feminist slogan: it does not mean that everything you do is political and therefore right-on: it means that your personal struggles have a political content and that your politics affect your personal life-style: that you yourself can be exploiting other women even if you go to all the right-on demos, that you need to confront the authoritarian system in your own head as well as in society.

Racism and classism and sexism should remain high on the agenda for feminist discussion (they are, in most places, and there is a lesbian conference in London this weekend to discuss just these things). Women in Hastings who are interested in their own liberation should also be prepared to discuss their own race and class privilege. I think the failure of the Hastings women's group lies in the fact that too many women refuse to do this. There is a strong disinclination to be committed to a group, to develop a sense of political awareness which includes self-criticism (women are only too ready to form cliques and criticise other women who are excluded).

I think this has something to do with the privileged art school position: the notion of "art for art's sake" (always a cry of the right-wing): the emphasis on "form" rather than content and, most important, the notion of the artist as the free bourgeois individual able to exercise choice over what she wears, where she lives, what she paints, where she travels and when, if the mood takes her, she deigns to drop in on meetings. The fact is, only the very privileged in our society can afford that kind of freedom and if women are behaving like that they are doing so at the expense of other people.

These women want the women's movement to be there. They want Rape Crisis to exist, they want women's centres, refuges, conferences, women's discos, women's music, women's theatre so that they can drop in and consume it when the mood takes them. But they will not commit themselves to making sure these things happen. In this way they exploit the women who run these things and they behave just as the privileged classes have always behaved-- sampling the products and the culture of the unprivileged whenever the fancy prompts them (or their boredom with other things):

Sometimes a bit of lesbian chauvinism is called for. One heterosexual member of the women's group told a lesbian that homosexuality was unnatural: (so what's natural about contraception and abortion?). Another said she couldn't commit herself to Rape Crisis (though she wanted it to exist) because thinking and talking about rape and child molesting upset her so much. She said it wasn't so upsetting for lesbians because they could support each other.

So lesbians are unnatural because they don't get hurt, depressed, angry, frightened, intimidated by rape or the threats of rape and by violence to children?

The women who made these anti-lesbian statements are behaving like members of a privileged (and totally non-revolutionary) class.

As to action. I quite agree with Steve in all that you say about the ability of the state to take the fire out of any revolutionary action by granting some of the demands-- and by its general overall ability to diminish freedom while pretending not to (this process is called "encapsulation" by intellectual Marxists who thereby ensure that only the privileged few can understand what the hell they are on about). But I do think consciousness raising is very important and if you have a chance to criticise pornography or racism at a council meeting (and get press coverage) then you should take it without going into conscience stricken agonies about correct political action. Also, I don't think there's anything wonderful about being a martyr or going to prison-- though we may well all end up there (should we book places for the same concentration camp?). Also, although I agree with your analysis of the state, Steve, I think that a stated desire for political purity can be a cover up for sheer laziness. Some people won't campaign against or for anything on the grounds that the campaign isn't revolutionary enough and that nothing short of total revolution will change anything: isn't that just an excuse to sit tight on your arse and do nothing? And to get up in public and make the sort of speech Terry made demands a lot of courage.

As you can see from this article, most committed feminists are deeply concerned about their own racism, classism etc and not at all convinced of their superiority-- hence the need to challenge women who exploit other women. So, sisters in Hastings, don't put yourselves on the back just because you aren't a nasty separatist, that doesn't mean you are the goddess's gift to womanhood either. What the hell are you all doing either for yourself or for the women next door? Why aren't you committed to getting rid of your own privileges? Why aren't you working towards a co-operative system of living/acting? Why aren't you fighting the authoritarian patriarchal state which exists in your heads just as much as it does outside? Why are you content to remain apathetic, passive, privileged daughters of patriarchy: why do you uphold a system that oppresses all of us? Why won't you even commit yourself to coming to regular meetings? There is a revolution to be fought, and it has to be fought by women too, and as long as you are not with us, sisters, then I am afraid, by virtue of your privilege, you are in fact against us.

Stop press: A new revolutionary group calling itself WASIBA have taken over Hastings Art College. They are flying the black and red flag, have painted women's slogans all over the walls and written in huge letters: DADA IS GAGA (obviously to signify the demise of patriarchy). The Art College has been changed into an animal sanctuary.

@@@

Dear Di,

melita & assorted members of the P.P. collective.

@\_@\_@\_@\_@\_@\_@\_@\_@\_

We have received another two articles which we regret we cannot include in this week's issue because we can't afford the paper this week, so you'll have to wait until next time. Just enough space to say that P.P. is printed & published by Hastings Free Press, 92 London Rd, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. Contact Hastings @s at 18a Markwick Terrace, St Leonards. We meet every monday evening in Mr Cherry's at 9:15....come along.....

# POISON PEN

(A)

FREE  
OF  
FEAR

April 29, 1993

HASTINGS ANARCHIST WEEKLY

## Animal Rights Demo.

WOW  
WOOF  
WOOF

Last Sunday (24th April) between 5,000 and 7,000 animal rights protestors marched ten or so miles from Clapham Common to the British Industrial Research Association and The Medical Research Council Toxicology Laboratory at Carshalton, Surrey, in protest at the use of animals in testing perfumes, soaps, detergents etc: "Mice were fed on a substance which is used in the toiletries industry as well as in the manufacture of soft drinks. The animals (those surviving) were fed the substance over an 84-week period. The animals were bled throughout the study and abnormalities of the blood were seen. Damage was found to have occurred in several of the body organs including lung and heart damage. Abscesses were also found in some animals." Ref: Food & Cosmetic Toxicology 1979 Vol.17 BIRRA.

Many anarchists have become disillusioned with the increasing passivity and reformism of the peace movement and are now turning their energies towards the more militant animal rights movement, and there was quite a sizeable anarcho presence on this march. Indeed, the heavy police presence on this march indicated just how wary the state is of this movement. Cops lined the whole of the route, and there were more guarding shops, especially those upon which the wrath of the marchers was likely to fall, such as Boots, Macdonald's and the many dead flesh traders. Many butchers had even boarded over their windows in fear of attack.

The policing of the demo was somewhat heavy-handed, to say the least. People were threatened with arrest should they dare to set foot on the pavement, and some eye-witnesses reported police dragging known activists out of the crowd and bundling them into waiting vans.

After last year's national demo at Porton Down when marchers managed to tear down some fences at the military research establishment, the cops were taking no chances on a similar thing occurring this year. Mind you, after five or so hours of walking, not many people felt partaking of any strenuous activity. There was a line of interlocking barriers blocking off the drive to the MRC, behind which was a solid row of cops and behind them was another barrier and more cops; and behind that was yet another line of police, about three deep.....and behind them.....a few hundred more and several mounted cops. It was the same story all along the perimeter, police waiting with truncheons drawn, more cops appearing from all directions whenever it looked as if the barrier might fall. Many people who had their hands on the barrier had their fingers smashed....

(cont. inside back page.....)

@@@@@@@@@

THIS WEEK: PORNOGRAPHY--THE MASS DEBATE CONTINUES/ IS PUNK A TOTAL FAILURE?/ ETC ETC.



'Fraid this should have been in last week's issue, but we couldn't afford the paper, so here it is now.....and the great pornography debate continues:

Dear P.P.,

I have been following the pornography debate in your rag for some time, and now feel confident that I have a valid contribution to make. I am a bloke, to all intents and purposes 'normal', with all the foibles, weaknesses and virtues that come with being male: stereotyped, you might say. It is persons like myself, then, to whom the spokeswoman of Hastings Women Against Violence is referring to in her letter in the 14th April issue of your magazine.

I am in danger-- so she says-- of being "turned into a monster by an industry which persuades them (men) that sex equals violence and which capitalises on their own fears of inadequacy by teaching them to hate women." I don't believe pornography does this-- I do not condone pornography in any way-- but I believe that pornography receives a lot of blame for problems it does not cause.

Pornography does cause problems, but not nearly as much as that letter suggests. Women will be raped no matter how rife pornography is; that situation, repulsive though it is, will unfortunately be with us for a long time to come. The Vikings were notorious for their treatment of women, and tragically this kind of treatment has been glorified over the centuries-- but the Vikings had no pornographic material as a trigger for this behaviour. The Vikings were damned excitable anyway, a mean bunch of seds, and really NOT stereotyped males, thank god, but perhaps set the path for the great misconception of the 'masculine mentality'.

Just as women, quite rightly, become fed up with slimming advertisements, Page 3 and the general attitude that they must try to be as lovely as possible, me beauties, I, personally, get sick of Marlboro adverts, porno mags which declare "Big Men Inside!!!" and all the sickening garbage which tries to affect everyone's mentality-- both men and women alike-- and it's here that people must STICK TOGETHER.

So for the letter from the HMAV to suggest that it's men that set the standards, and it's only women who have to live up to them, or be sneered at, is wrong. I dislike pornography intensely, but I also don't agree with censorship: this is just a personal conflict which I will have to sort out myself, but I do object to the idea that I will willingly ogle all the porno material I can, and be messed up in the process, and not even know it. Just because I'm a bloke.

I have every sympathy with the feminist cause, the Women Against Violence campaign is about ten years overdue, but I do feel that men are getting a bit of a bad name (mostly deserved, I admit!) amongst feminist circles, and that, surely, is just as distressing as male chauvinism.

I welcome the time when men won't generalise about women, and women won't generalise about men: both are guilty. I loathe any suggestion that because I am male I am an oppressor, and I equally loathe any suggestion that women need/like/want to be oppressed. Both are wrong, and both are dangerous, but these ideas are far more deep-rooted and wide-reaching than just pornography alone: it is the whole sickened attitude buried under years of conflict between the sexes that produces things like pornography. Certainly pornography should not be encouraged in any way, but it is the attitude of everyone to the opposite, and also to their own sex, which needs to be straightened out. Hopefully, there will come a time when pornography is no longer wanted, and therefore will not exist. Until then we must grin and bear it-- (at least, I do, most of it's so pathetic anyway, the bin's the best place!).

It's not just women who are sensitive and caring, c.k.? both men and women share many beautiful qualities, ones which do need to be explored in both sexes. Both men and women are capable of being sensitive, and both are capable of being aggressive and destructive. I hope I've made some kind of point, if I haven't succeeded, then I'll try again:

Peace and smiles,  
Richard Hamblin. Hastings.

And yet more.....

Dear P.P.,

The letter from Hastings Women Against Violence (Against Women, surely?) is a fine example of 1980s feminism: it passes off dubious and subjective judgements and questionable assertions as fact; it is matriarchal, sexist and puritanical; it generalises about men; and it tries to belittle our intelligence with a barrage of the same old stuff repeated over and over again in different ways.

It is only to be expected, I suppose, from feminists, but nevertheless such flimsy nonsense as the first paragraph of Hastings WAVAW still manages to annoy me. Trust feminists to leap onto the pornography is violence myth by backing it up with talk of the small minority of pornographic magazines etc which feature violence against women. The vast majority of pornographic magazines depict something quite different. Or do feminists believe that because a penis goes in a vagina, anus or mouth then this is violent?

Using this baseless "logic" I could claim that the woman is being violent towards me when she sucks my penis: not only is she drawing me into her but she has at that time power to inflict, with a simple jaw movement, intense pain and also perhaps to injure me for life. What a load of codswallop. When the person I love sucks me and when we have sex, in both cases it is a way of saying "I love you".

I agree that there is a connection between pornography and rape. Pornography reduces the occurrence of rape in that it promotes masturbation. Which is best? For a man to rape or to wank to a magazine? The destructiveness and pain in the former is obvious, and in the latter case both the person wanking and the person/s in the magazine are being economically exploited, just as I am every time I buy a tin of baked beans. So what? I'd rather have a wank than go shopping.

Patriarchy is a burden on society that was there long before Mayfair came along. Yesterday I was reading of someone living at the turn of the century who got to sitting up at night until her husband was fully asleep because he'd insist on having sex. So of course there will be cases in which it is clear that the sole intention is to degrade women; but again, remember that there are many women and men who get sexual enjoyment from being hit or tied up and so on. I think that anything that doesn't hurt me or people or other animals that I care for is o.k. So if the bloke next door is whipping or being whipped (say), I think that they should be left to get on with it. That I would intensely dislike such activities should have nothing to do with it.

The leaflet shows that sex is still dirty, but in different ways. A hundred years ago it wasn't spoken about at all; now it is debased and wrongfully represented by the same people who claim to be in at the deep of the revolution. What a revolution this is turning out to be! The leaflet reminds me of a fine piece of feminist claptrap by Andrea Dworkin: "Men believe what pornography says about women. From the worst to the best of them, they do." Seeing as Andrea and I have never met it seems odd that she should claim to be in my head. Hastings WAVAW claim to know what I think as well, but they're both wrong.

Yours and mine,  
Cliff.

Lancaster.

@@@@@@@@@@@@

If you have any thoughts to contribute to the mass debate or any other topic (reviews, reports, criticisms etc etc), send them to us at 18a Markwick Terrace, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex or c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Rd, St Leonards.

Money is also welcome.....send crossed P.O.s/cheques to us at either address-- send cash at your peril!!! if you want to take a chance on it not ending up in some post office worker's grubby pocket.....

And yet more debate, this time following an article which appeared in P.P. around the beginning of the year entitled "Why Punk is a Total Failure", taken from an original leaflet by the @ Youth Federation:

"BY WAY OF A REPLY":

Just to clear up a few points about my article "Why Punk is Not a Total Failure": Firstly about my use of the word "pacifism", I don't compare smashing up the missile site at Greenham Common to kicking someone's head in on a Friday night. I agree with the first but not with the second, I don't hold that damage to property is "violence". In my article I was trying to point out the fact that riots achieve nothing apart from hurting people. In the @ Youth leaflet it said how punks should cause a riot instead of dancing etc. Well you just have to look at places like Brixton, they rioted there and it achieved god all (if anything it was a negative act).

You say acts of violence on army bases are not acts of aggression, well I never said they were. When the @ Youth said about causing riots they didn't say anything about going to such places, the context they meant it in was just to go and smash up the local shops/houses/people in the surrounding area. Which would achieve nothing apart from a lot of dead/hurt people.

About non-violent direct action, well what sort of reaction do you expect the state to give towards violent action? Why do you think there are people like the SPG, etc etc? A non-violent revolution would also result in amounting sympathy from people. Also I don't think an ordinary soldier/policeman would shoot someone who was lying in the middle of the road. Maybe this is why organisations like the SPG are hated within the police force itself. Also a violent revolution would result in severe hatred by the masses towards the revolutionists.

I myself agree with the main point of the article attacking the "four minute fashion" punk or the "weekend anarchist". Punk is constantly being used as a cult fashion, a way in which to rebel during the teenage years of your life. This is not what it is about, if it was a "four minute fashion" punk would have died back in 1977.

"You'll never beat the system by bombing No.10, the system is not made of bricks it's mostly made of people, you may put them into hiding but they'll be back again."

Christ.

Milton Keynes.

SOME THOUGHTS:::::

- I. You do not have to be a pacifist to see that there is a difference between attacking government property such as a missile base, and "kicking someone's head in on a Friday night". No-one is suggesting that the latter is a sensible course of action, least of all, I should imagine, the @ Youth Federation. The problem for pacifists comes after you have started to attack government property because then the forces of the state (police or army) will attack you. And what do you do then, let them smash your head in, run away or simply say "Sorry, I didn't mean to do it, honest"?

In practice the dilemma never arises because whatever some pacifists may say, in the end they always behave as though they believe that attacks on property are violence; in other words they do not attack property but only indulge in the legal protest style of politics-- marches, petitions, holding hands, die-ins etc etc.

If you are going to take an action which goes beyond mere protest (such as occupying a factory or smashing up militarist property or physically stopping the deployment of weapons) you have to be prepared to defend yourself, because one thing is certain and that is that the state will act to defend its interests and if you are not prepared to fight back you are admitting defeat in advance.



From previous page.....

2. You say that riots "achieve nothing" and that they are about "smashing up local shops/houses/ people". Recent riots in this country have had one primary target and that is the police force. You make it sound as if you think riots are just senseless outbreaks of random violence; this is certainly not the case in the riots we have seen over the last few years in places like Bristol, Brixton, Toxteth and so on; these were spontaneous (although developing the beginnings of organisation as they went on) acts of resistance against a brutal, repressive police force and the system of alienation that the police force is paid to uphold. I don't see how anarchists can fail to applaud them.

As to what they achieve, well, most of the people I've spoken to who live in Brixton agree that before the first outbreak of rioting it was like living under an army of occupation with constant searches and harassment, whereas afterwards the police had been taught a lesson and had to keep cool, at least for a while.

During riots people also learn valuable lessons-- that they are not powerless, that the state is not invincible, how to co-operate with and defend each other etc. One could also mention that many people probably now have stereos, videos etc that they would never have been able to afford otherwise.

3. You don't think an ordinary soldier or policeman would shoot someone who was lying in the road? Most of the time soldiers and police do exactly what they are ordered to do-- how else could the atrocities of the concentration camps have occurred? Or Hiroshima? Or Dresden? Or the massacres of civilians by British troops in India? But maybe you are right, maybe they wouldn't be ordered to shoot someone who was lying in the road, because that person wouldn't be a threat to the state so they'd just drag them out of the way knowing they wouldn't resist.

4. As far as I know the SPG are not hated in the police force. Quite the contrary: they are greatly admired and there is much competition to join them.

Steve.

And there's a veritable plethora of feedback this week:::::

Dear P.P.,

After reading the Anarchist Youth Federation leaflet "Why Punk is a Total Failure" and the remarks of a punk on this leaflet, I decided to contribute to this discussion.....

Yes, punk is a total failure but did it promise to be anything else?

Punk is nothing more than a fashion like Mods or Teds. Punks feel that they are rejecting society but they still buy bondage from 'BOY'. I can't see that pogoing at a gig can ever change the system.

As for Crass, kings of clone drone anarcho cliche music. My opinion of Crass is not very high. Rich, educated, upper-class arseholes (I?i--I?i-pissed). It's a second hippie revival already. It's so easy to say "Fuck school" when you've got university education to help you. I feel that Crass would be more at home in a police state, then they could be 'really oppressed man'.

"Hey Penny."

"What Steve?"

"I've just found this grotty little restaurant down a back alley off Bog Lane. The food's atrocious and the place stinks but that's where you find the real people!"

"Far out Steve."

Yours in Peace,  
Dill.

Shipley, W. Yorks.

P.S. Watch out Crass, there's a police state on its way.

Footnote: I don't know whether you will agree with those "snide" remarks above, but it's my view of real punk chaos barmy army type people. To back up my feelings on Crass: the I in I2 asked Crass to do a benefit for them. Crass refused as it would be held in a university building. Later Crass did a benefit for CND in a university building. Members of the I in I2 went to see them and asked that claimants should be let in half price as many people were not coming owing to the price. Crass refused and in the argument Steve NOT SO Ignorant punched a girl in the face.

Sex equality-- YES    Pacifism-- NO.

# BOOKSHOP RAIDED

On Wednesday 12th April five drug squad officers raided Acorn Bookshop in Reading. During the course of the raid they closed the shop for ninety minutes, took the daily sales register and order book and threatened the shopworker with being charged with obstruction for attempting to explain to customers what was going on. They removed a number of book relating to drugs, such as "Junky" by William Burroughs, "Doors of Perception" by Aldous Huxley, and "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" by Hunter S. Thompson; all these books are available in most shops that sell paperbacks. For some strange reason they also removed, well let's not beat about the bush, they stole, copies of "Growing Natural Tobacco, Tomorrow's Epidemic" (a War on Want publication on tobacco and the Third World) and "The Coffee Lover's Handbook."

No-one should be surprised that our wonderful 'protectors' in the police force behave in this gestapo manner but it is interesting to note that, as with similar recent raids on radical/left-wing/feminist bookshops, the statute invoked to justify these actions was the Obscene Publications Act.

Those who seek to persuade the state to suppress pornography should take note.

Steve.

\*\*\*\*\*

And continuing this week's run of absolutely no local news:

Dear P.P.,  
I thought a report on the Lesbian Sexual Practice Conference in London last weekend might be of interest to P.P. readers

I went with some scepticism: I don't like labels and would particularly resist categorising myself according to my sexual preferences-- which was about the extent of my understanding of the name Lesbian. As a feminist I have been bothered by the apparently increasing split between heterosexual women and lesbians within the movement, but I did not want to spend two days listening to a "party political broadcast".

There were a lot of women there: not only from all over England but from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, North and South America and Europe. Topics suggested as workshop titles included many sex-related subjects, e.g. monogamy or non., celibacy, friendships, sado-masochism, fantasies, erotica and

pornography. There were also workshops on lesbian culture: music, art, literature and dress; on motherhood and A.I.D., on racism, classism and middle class white guilt-tripping, and on lesbianism as a Western World privilege. Rooms were set aside specifically for the use of black, Jewish, working class, disabled and older lesbians.

A topic that came immediately to the fore thanks to some energetic objections from the disabled lesbians organisation, was "ablebodiedism" for want of a better word. The building was a split level, many-stairwayed collage, and although ramps had been obtained for parts of the building, they were not felt to be enough. No-one else seemed willing to boycott the conference however. There were signers for the deaf both at the conference and on stage throughout Siren's gig on Saturday night.

Cont. next page.....

From previous page.....

Obviously one could not attend all the workshops. In those I got to there were no chairwomen or official speakers; dialogue was spontaneous. In fact the atmosphere seemed like a lot of old friends getting together with a great deal of trust and sympathy to discuss things they really cared about with remarkable frankness. There was none of the cliquiness I had feared and I was able to join the discussions easily and with no self-consciousness, which is unusual for me.

I heard that there was some fairly strenuous disagreement in the S/M workshop. Those who felt that anything is acceptable between consenting adults did not like being told by those concerned at the increase in violence and women's pornography, especially in some American subcultures, that their attitude shows a continuation of the male definition of relationships based on the exercising of power imbalance rather than equality.

I came home from London feeling strengthened and heartened. My understanding of lesbianism has broadened considerably to include the conviction that it is an affirmation of the fact that every woman has the right to live independently of men on a personal level, to choose autonomy without social stigma, without pressures to explain or justify her choice not to accept other people's definition of social acceptability, without suffering verbal or physical abuse personally or legal abuse such as loss of jobs or children for no other reason than that she challenges the definition of "normality" that has been devised to best serve the interests of those in power.

I hope that other women have gained the boost in morale that I did and that we will begin to be able to move towards more unity and constructive action. We are, after all, all involved in the same struggle: survival.

Yours,

Kam.

Hastings.

oooooooooooooooo

Continued from front page.....

.....with truncheons. More and more police kept appearing-- one dreads to think just how much it cost us to protect these horrific establishments. There was even a TV crew filming from the roof of the MRC and a heli-cop-ter followed us all the way. 'Spect they got a few more faces for their files.

Unfortunately, with the police presence as it was, there was nothing that we could really have done without the possibility of incurring massive numbers of injured and arrested....no doubt the police had a few tricks up their sleeve waiting in case things got too much out of their control. The general opinion is that twenty-eight people were kidnapped by the police, but it is not known how they have been charged and when they will be appearing in court.

BUAV were making a collection at the demo for a fighting fund for those who were arrested, and contributions can be sent to them at: BUAV, 143 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0EE.

melita.

Other addresses: Hastings & Bexhill Animal Aid c/o Mrs D. Griffiths, 35 Collington Avenue, Bexhill.

Animal Liberation Front: Box 190, Peace News, 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham.

BUAV produce "Liberator" newspaper bi-monthly-- 30p from BUAV.

P.S. I've just been advised that it's probably best if you don't send money for the defence fund to BUAV....hang on 'til next week when we'll confirm where it should be sent.



HELP!!!! the desperate little cry rings out yet again and the bills come flooding in and we realise we can't pay them and produce a weekly paper....we've had to miss out an article from this week's ish just coz we couldn't afford the paper: this week's issue cost somewhere in the region of £15 to produce and we just can't afford it! Please give 5p or 10p for your copy or there won't be one next week.

Come along to our @ Centre at 18a Marwick Terrace (basement), St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. Books, mags, food etc are all on sale, and current/back issues of P.P. are available. Articles, money etc can all be deposited there....it's open on Tuesday evening 6-8 and Friday afternoon 2-5; or you can deposit any money etc in if you're passing by.

Hastings @'s meet in Mr Cherry's every Monday night at 9:15 so if you can't make it to 18a, come along then, have a chat, get your copy of P.P. etc. If you're lucky you might also be able to pick up copies of Poison Pen from the info rack at the library, should you be having trouble getting it regularly.....

We have been asked to point out with ref. to an article entitled "Animal Liberation" in the 14th April ish ("Just Because You're Paranoid.....") which stated that there is a peace camp set up at Porton Down by the CND and animal rights people, that there is no connection with the CND: those involved are in fact anti-militarists.

Can any reader supply/inform us of a cheap source of duplicating paper? At the moment we're paying more than £4 for a ream so if anyone has any bright ideas about cheaper paper, we'd be highly grateful.

Poison Pen is printed & published by Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards. The views expressed in P.P. are the opinions of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the P.P. collective so don't go on at us about things with which you don't agree! Articles, letters, opinions etc are always welcome for publication. In the next issue (if we can afford it) there will be a report of the demo in Brighton yesterday for a new unemployed centre there....but will there be any local news??? Never mind, P.P. is still the only local paper of the 'left' (?) to feature anything remotely political in it.....

Poison Pen

6th  
MAY  
1983

ERECTION SPECIAL

ANARCHIST  
LANDSLIDE  
VICTORY!

5p  
OR  
FREE

FULL RESULTS  
PAGES  
7 & 8

56%

DON'T VOTE

PLUS: BRIGHTON UNEMPLOYED DEMO

"A CHEAP DAY RETURN TO BRIGHTON PLEASE....."

Last Thursday week (April 28th) there was a march through Brighton by unemployed people demanding that the Council should provide them with a new centre as a meeting place, welfare rights advice centre and so on with a proper crèche and decent amenities.

The present unemployed centre in Brighton, which is run by the unemployed themselves and not by paid staff, is too small (it only holds twenty people), damp and has no hot water. Three of us unemployed from Hastings went over to show solidarity with Brighton unemployed; we distributed copies of the leaflet "Neither Bombs Nor Jobs" reproduced in this week's P.P., sold some copies of "Workers Playtime" and gave away copies of P.P.

It was good to meet up with anarchist comrades from Brighton and other places and we formed quite a sizeable section of the march. Unemployed people had shown up to support the march from London, Swindon and Essex.

None of the paid staff from H.U.C.A.C. came.

As the march moved off I would say it was about two hundred and fifty strong. Within five minutes the police nicked someone for walking on the wrong side of the white line down the middle of the road. The march came to a halt and there was rapid debate as to what should be done; we anarchists suggested that we should either stay put and block the road until he was released or march to the police station-- in fact the majority of marchers seemed to be of the opinion that something of that sort should be done. But the cops started to pressurise us to move on and they were joined by some of the self-appointed stewards with their red arm bands, many of whom were party hacks wearing "Vote Labour" badges.

One such specimen said to me "It's pointless to wreck the march just because one person has been arrested." How pathetic. What's the point of marching if we can't show elementary solidarity and prevent arrests or support prisoners if they do occur? Anyway, in the end we all decided we would continue the march and go on to the cop station afterwards.

The march proceeded on its way as marches do, with minor incidents as people strayed out of the limits prescribed by the guardians of law and order-- yes this is a free country folks, you can hold a march if you want but you had damn well better march where the cops tell you!

All the usual chants got chanted-- "Maggie Maggie Maggie--out out out", "Jobs not bombs" etc etc. What a bore. However, things reached a height of ridiculousness when the Labour party and trotskyst types started singing "The Red Flag" with the help of a megaphone; when this was greeted with shouts of derision and the chanting of anarchist slogans, they turned round in horror saying "This is not an anarchist demonstration!"-- no, and it's not a bloody Labour party rally either.

It was just as we were turning out of a side street onto the sea front that the most serious incident of the day occurred. Cops arrested a comrade from London and several anarchists attempted to prevent them from taking him away. One more was arrested. Some people sat down in front of the cop van and were dragged violently out of the way. One woman was elbowed in the face. What big brave men coppers are: it must be something to do with the uniform.

Again the march came to a halt but was very spread out at this time. Some people came back to the scene of the incident but many (mostly stewards, Labour party members and trotskysts) just weren't interested. I actually heard comments like "What do you expect?" and "Troublemakers" from these people. What scum-- they should find jobs easily enough-- I suggest they try the police force.

Continued on next page.....



From previous page....

The behaviour of "the left" on this march was truly vomit inducing: they call themselves "socialists" and "revolutionaries", standing round looking trendy selling "Socialist Worker" and "Brighton Labour Briefing" and giving out their crappy vote Labour leaflets but when it comes to supporting someone who's being arrested or helping out people who are trying to stop it and are getting roughed up in the process, oh no, they haven't got time-- sorry, much too busy building the Party. Scum.

We moved off again-- a very subdued and bad-tempered march; one of the types mentioned above was now singing some stupid song about revolution. I just don't know where some people keep their brains.

We arrived outside the town hall-- our destination-- where we once again suggested that the march should now proceed to the cop station. Some fat Labour councillor made a speech from the steps of the town hall about how the most important thing was to get us all "back to work"--great-- back to wage slavery under Labour. What an inspiring notion. Apparently Rod Fitch also spoke. Needless to say there was no mention of anything controversial like arrests or police violence, just 'turn out on May 5th and vote Labour' bullshit.

About thirty-five of us proceeded to the police station where some noisy scenes ensued. They could not understand, as authoritarians never can understand, that we didn't need leaders-- "But somebody must be in charge." They refused to speak to us en masse but said they would let in a delegation of three. Eventually they got us out of the station itself, during which procedure they were very condescending to the women present: "Come along now love," and such like crap for which they got several well-deserved streams of abuse.

We gathered outside on the forecourt under the watchful eye of several blue busybodies. This was about quarter to four. Eventually we were told that they could not process the charges against our comrades since they were wasting so much "manpower" (sic) guarding us. An obvious lie of course, what they were saying was clear off or we'll keep them in longer. We decided the best thing to do was to go away and come back in an hour at half past five, which is what we did.

By seven thirty all three had been released after being charged with minor offences of obstruction. It seems that our pressure on the cops had served its purpose, since, talking to a woman from Brighton later on, we discovered that normally the Brighton cops take much longer to release people: after arrests at an anti-fascist demo she had attended, people had not been released until the middle of the night and one not until the next day. Which shows that solidarity is strength-- a lesson the unemployed should learn well, and to hell with the party builders and social work lefties.

The trials of those arrested are coming up on the 10th and 25th of May and we'll keep you informed of developments. If anyone wants to give money for travel expenses, possible fines etc for the defendants, see a member of the collective or send it to us and we will see it gets there.

Steve.

~~~~~

Further to last week's article about the Animal Liberation demo at Carshalton,

apparently it's ok to send any donations

for those arrested to the BUAV. If you

specify where you want the money to go,

no doubt it will reach its destination.

The address of BUAV is 143 Charing Cross

Road, London WC2 0EE.

~~~~~

The following letter is from Arnie Wakefield, recently married to one of Britain's most famous prisoners:

Dear people,

As anarchists I don't spect you dig superstitions or the occult too much. Nevertheless you might be interested in an incident last week.

As I was leaving the prison after a visit on Friday I got me collar felt by the biggest cop..... pto.....

Continued from previous page.....

....you ever saw in your life. "Mrs Wakefield? Get in the car," indicating the Panda. As he had several other nearly as large bobbies backing him up and I was all alone, poor little defenceless girlie holding nowt but a bunch of Polyanthum from the cons' garden, I gave in gracefully.

On arrival at the nick downtown in Newport, opposite the County Hall where I was married three weeks before! I was relieved of me jewels and property and even my shoes, "In case you belt someone wiv the heel." ME????? Then, still no explanation or charge, thrown in a tiny, bare cell. As usual no book or anything to do. I tried shouting at the drunks round the men's cells but they lapsed into a stunned silence and I got bored.

Eight o'clock came and I was told I was waiting for the Railway Police from the mainland and I got them all flying round in a panic then about the little lost child who was "with me". I said if he saw me picked up he would fly back to the hotel and they said there was a Panda car there waiting for him so I roared with laughter and said a kid don't have to be a gypsy or even very streetwise to panic at a Panda car and make his own way back to London.

So they quickly arranged to ring London which was the quickest and best way I know of to raise the alarm at Smoke-end as of course if you ASK them to 'tell London' as is your 'right' (ha ha) they NEVER will. They just say "But you might get bail in the morning. You don't want to worry them," etc. So when nicked I always invent lost children, starving animals etc etc; a deaf blind old mother can be useful for this. Within half an hour it's buzzing down the grapevine: "They've got Annie, hide everything. Ring C.A.P.A., ring Release," etc etc.

Anyway, after a fairly exciting night, an amazing, hilarious interview with the "Railway cops from the mainland" etc. and Amos (aged 11) strolling in at midnight, muddy all over and stinking of the fish he carried (he'd been fishing at Shanklin all day), they eventually threw me out without making a charge, and I made it back next morning, prompt, for the visit.

I wasn't going to tell Dougie of my adventure as he got his own worries but he shouted at me about something (VERY unusual for Dougie) and I burst into tears, like a wee girl, and had to tell him. He said calmly "Well, that's alright. It explains the bad dream I had last night. First time I had a bad dream since I met you!" While I was sitting there so miserable in that filthy cell, thinking I was off to Holloway and wouldn't see him again, he was just down the road in Parkhurst, picking up my bad vibes.

That ain't the occult bit though. The weirdest bit is that the next morning, I had me collar felt on the Friday, Saturday as I arrived for visit we had to wait half an hour cause a screw had had a heart attack!! Earlier this year when we was struggling over visit conditions a screw had a heart attack!! (fatal) and Dougie said it's one of the really nice ones and all but serve them right coz I am his 'really nice' one. Gypsy luck huh?

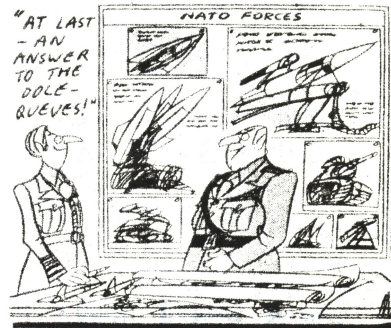
luvins,  
Annie.

P.S. Any screws reading this: get checked by a R.C.G. & yer blood pressure, before you mark my cards next time!!

oooooooooooo

P.P. is printed & published by Hastings Free Press, 92 London Rd., St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. What you are currently handling is a special economy issue of Poison Pen, caused by a severe dearth of funds.....please contribute! Money, articles, letters etc are all welcome: send them to us c/o Hastings Free Press, or to 18a Markwick Terrace, St Leonards (basement). At this selfsame address we also have a selection of books, papers, food, back issues of P.P. etc etc so come along sometime-- we're open Tuesday 6-8pm & Friday 2-5pm. Hastings @s also meet at Mr Cherry's pub on the seafront, Monday 9:15pm. ok?

# Neither BOMBS Nor JOBS

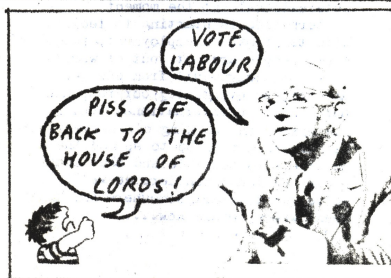


Jobs not bombs. Sounds great doesn't it ?  
Get the government to spend the money it  
would have spent on nuclear weapons on  
creating jobs by investing in industry etc.

But wait a minute...What's so great  
about having a job anyway ? Isn't most  
work boring and meaningless and don't most  
people only do it for the money ? Isn't the  
subservience of having to sell yourself to  
a boss part of the whole problem ?

The tiny minority of the population who  
control most of the factories, mines, farms,  
docks and so on (the people we have to sell  
ourselves to) are the same ones who've got  
the bombs and the nuclear bunkers to hide in.  
Whether you are talking about the Western  
capitalist consumer society or the state  
bureaucracy they've got in the East, it's  
all the same old game, the important deci-  
sions are made in their interests not ours.  
As long as the system continues they will  
always have the power of life and death over  
us. Whether it's with nuclear weapons, chemi-  
cal and biological, conventional weapons or  
just the power to cut off your electricity  
and let you freeze to death.

## SAME OLD PISS IN A NEW BOTTLE



The left (labour Party, S.W.P. etc) and the  
Trade Unions aren't interested in changing

anything—they just want the chance to  
'negotiate' a 'better deal' on our behalf.  
In 'the good old days' during the last  
Labour government the union leaders used to  
sit down at the conference table with the  
government and the bosses and work out the  
most efficient way to exploit us.  
Since Thatcher's slammed the door in their  
faces they've just stood outside bleating  
to be let back in. In practice their 'better  
deal' just means more job creation schemes  
—paying us to dig holes and fill them in  
again so we don't lose the habit of working  
and doing what we're told.  
Beg for that?

They must think we're fucking morons.

## RIGHT TO WORK?



In practice, the 'right to work  
mentality' just encourages the people  
out of work to compete for jobs with the  
people in work. This helps to keep down  
their wages and discourages them from  
'causing any trouble'. From a disarma-  
ment point of view this is obviously  
very important because how can you expect  
someone to black missile parts or refuse  
to build missile silos or whatever if  
they are continually looking over their  
shoulders wondering if someone else is  
going to take over their job ?



## RIGHT NOT TO WORK

If you are into making demands, what about the 'right not to work' - a decent income for those out of work? But, of course in the present economic climate there's no way that those with real power in this society are ever going to grant such a demand.

If we want a better life for ourselves in or out of work we're going to have to start taking what we want instead of just going cap in hand to the bosses begging to be exploited.

## TAKING WHAT'S OURS!



SHOPPING  
WITHOUT  
MONEY  
DURING  
THE RIOTS  
OF 1981

If you are on the dole there is plenty you can do to fight back, you don't have to accept poverty and isolation.

Claimants in some areas have already fought off the Special Claims Control Unit (bastards who try to scare you into signing off- threatening fraud charges) just by publicising their existence as well as who they are and how they operate.

There's also the possibility for more direct actions- if you want a centre to meet in, why not squat one? Can't afford to buy things? Get together with some other pissed off dole slaves and go mass shoplifting.

The people made all the products, so they belong to the people.

You can also take part in the struggles of people in work-places, by joining their picket-lines and helping to produce leaflets, make contact with other groups of workers etc.

You can get involved with occupations against the closure of hospitals. And of course you've got more time to be involved in actions against nuclear weapons- blockading air bases, exposing secret war plans etc.

When you are in work the struggle continues- wildcat strikes, occupations mass skiving, pilfering, insubordination....

## BOLLOCKS TO WORK!

By saying 'bollocks to work!' and 'bollocks to boredom' we're not calling for more liberal bosses or more radical politicians, we don't want a 'fair share' of the products of our labour, we want to end this forced labour and take it all.

We've got to start to take back our own lives and our own power to act, joining together in groups and seizing control of whatever fragments we can.

If we are ever going to take back the whole of our lives from the bosses, bureaucrats, war-mongers and even trendy campaign-mongers (GLC, SWP, Militant etc) nothing less than a full-blown Social Revolution is needed in which people create organisations through which they can control their own activities and talk about and decide issues as equals.

## NO EASY SOLUTIONS....

There are no easy answers, even just to the problem of nuclear disarmament. There are no politicians, union-leaders or the 'celebrities' who we can seriously pin our hopes on.

Even if a 'labour government' firmly committed to unilateralism was elected it would be very difficult for it to carry out its policies in the face of powerful opposition both from the armed forces, arms industry and civil service in this country and from the American government to abandon them. Faced with this sort of pressure the Labour Party will probably settle for a few token gestures (real nuclear-free zones etc) combined with a lot of bullshit about how disarmament is technically difficult at present.

Of course the problems of the arm-race and the economic recession are international (at the moment the Eastern bloc is starting to feel the effects of mass unemployment, but over there people are not 'out of work' just 'on assignment' from one job to another) so eventually our response has got to be international too. The aim of the working class everywhere has always got to be to spread the action as widely as possible and that means across national frontiers as well. We've got to start somewhere and that means where we are now....

PAP INDIVIDUALS WITH BRAINS OF THEIR OWN  
- WE ARE NOT TRYING 'TO BUILD THE PARTY'  
SO DON'T ASK TO JOIN.

# POISON FREE OK SPI

FRIDAY 13th  
MAY 1983

(A) PEN

## IN JUSTICE??

OBSERVANT READERS (har har) will have noticed in this week's local papers a report of a man picked up by the police in White Rock Gardens for wearing women's clothing.

This occurred at 9:50 at night, and although he was spotted and reported by an 18-year-old boy, I'm sure that there weren't many people around at that time. The man said that he went to the gardens, dressed as he was, because he knew that they would be fairly empty. He said he would not walk in Queen's Road dressed as a woman.

On being questioned by one P.C. Bowls, the man said "I'm a transvestite. I'm not hurting anyone, am I?" Nevertheless, the guardians of law and order decided to keep the man in police cells overnight. I suppose that's part and parcel of the "free" country we live in.

There's a second point I'd like to make about this story. The man had been advised by doctors that if he wanted a sex-change operation, one of the prerequisites would be that he lived as a woman for one year. But how could he? In a society where everyone has to be "normal", where no deviation is allowed? How could he in a society which feels it is offensive for a man to walk the streets dressed as a woman? I suggest that the police rush out now and arrest Hinge and Brackett, Danny La Rue and Les Dawson, not to mention all the pantomime dames from Xmas shows, and lock them in cells overnight. Where's the difference?

And on a similar note.....

Taking a look at Brighton magistrates courts this week proved to be an enlightening experience. Not only did I learn that the magistrates are just as tough as they are here (they're more lenient in London), but I also discovered that the police over there are real shits.

One morning, with nothing better to do, two plain-clothes cops were sitting in a car outside some Gents. at Saltdean, watching the comings and goings.

Well, I suppose they got bored just sitting there, so they got out of their car and went into the loos, obviously hoping to find something nice and juicy to tell the lads about back at the nick.

Continued on page 7.

## →>>ANIMAL LIBERATION<<←

It cannot have escaped the notice of Poison Pen readers, especially those involved in different types of liberation struggles, that animal liberationists have been active both locally and nationally.

The capitalist press, whilst reporting on the destruction of vivisection laboratories, liberation of animals from factory farms, laboratory suppliers etc, do not report the ethical considerations that have to be taken into account before one judges these actions as either 'right' or 'wrong'. Possible reasons why the press appear uninterested in the motives of animal liberationists is that they, as a part of the state, are frightened of a liberation struggle that has the support of a usually apathetic population. A recent opinion poll showed that 37% of the public agreed that breaking into vivisection laboratories to free animals is justifiable.

No other militant liberation movement: gay, feminist, black etc., can say that they have a mandate from one third of the population to destroy property to achieve their aims.

Another example of why the state is afraid of the animal liberation movement is that when activists appear in court they plead 'not guilty' and make the jurors reach their verdict based on moral, not legal, considerations.

Animal liberationists see liberation as a holistic concept: different liberation struggles are merely facets of total liberation. Therefore the animal liberationist is really one who readily accepts that all people have the right to shelter, food and love, irrespective of colour and sex. This simple concept is then extended to all forms of life. This idea was put forward by the Brighton radical writer, Henry Salt, in his book "Animal Rights", published in 1892. A quote from Lecky in Salt's book helps to clarify the extension of basic rights from humans to non-humans:

"At one time the benevolent affections embraced merely the family, soon the circle expanding includes first a class, then a nation, then a coalition of nations, then all humanity, and finally its influence is felt in the dealing of the animal world."

To achieve animal liberation needs the support of all true liberationists. Exploited non-humans have to be freed by humans. The millions of non-humans cannot fight back against their oppressors and win the basic rights that belong to all species which are withheld from them by human tyranny.

Once our species has recognised the rights of other species, we ourselves will have taken a major stride forward in self-liberation. A person who accepts the rights of non-humans, finds it impossible to justify the oppression of their own species based on sex and the artificial concept of 'race'.

Once a person starts fighting for the rights of non-humans, it becomes clear that those that exploit humans for profit and power are also behind the exploitation of other species.

The American state has recently started economic sanctions against Bangladesh. The reason for this is that Bangladesh stopped supplying America with primates (monkeys) as they were being used for testing weapons.

The drug industry slaughters millions of animals in useless tests every year. These are carried out mainly in order to provide a 'scapegoat' for the industry. If someone dies from a drug side-effect and the company is sued, the companies' usual defence is that the drug was tested on animals and found to be safe. This defence does not work very well now however, as it has been proved that reactions to drugs vary from species to species (not to mention variations between human individuals).

Continued on next page.



From previous page...

As one becomes more involved in the animal liberation movement, one becomes more aware of the scale of suffering and it quickly becomes apparent that liberation cannot be achieved by reform only-- revolution is necessary. A coalition of all liberationists would be an effective way of removing power from those who exploit and oppress humans and non-humans. Co-operation and eventual liberation will only be achieved when those liberationists who have become isolated in one facet of total liberation become aware that they are actually part of a much wider struggle.

The feminist who wears a fur coat is not a liberationist. We cannot become liberated whilst we, ourselves, continue to exploit non-humans by wearing their skins. Nobody who exploits another human or non-human for pleasure, food, profit or power can be liberated.

For those who are still unconvinced about the oppression that non-humans are subjected to need only refer to various scientific journals. These include horrific reports of experiments performed on non-humans. They are best read in conjunction with books on the Nuremberg War Trials. Nazi scientists excused their experiments on Jews, blacks, gays, gypsies etc., by stating that they might find cures for diseases that would be of benefit to other Nazis.

A German doctor, Professor Rose, justified his experiments on people in concentration camps by declaring that he was searching for a cure for TB. As this type of research cannot be defended when it is carried out on human beings, it cannot rationally be defended when it is carried out on non-humans, regardless of whether it may be of benefit to humans.

The journal "Learning and Motivation" reported experiments being carried out at the University of York, in which it was shown that the rate of scratching in the rat could be increased by increasing the frequency at which an itch occurs. Researchers at Glasgow and Hull Universities have taken various species of animal and castrated them at various ages and then dabbed them with urine from non-castrates. The result of this experiment was that urine was shown to contain attack provoking chemicals.

These experiments do not even pretend to be of any benefit to humankind. They are performed so that the experimenter can publish papers in scientific journals and further his/her career.

Any student with information on experiments at Universities are asked to contact the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). Already such information has led to raids on University laboratories, and it has helped to expose the experiments being carried out at the Universities. Such action has also shown that some Universities have been experimenting on stolen pet animals.

It is hoped that this article will stir local militant liberationist groups to consider the rights of non-human animals. Anyone wanting further details on the Animal Liberation Front should write to:

Box 190, 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham.

Obviously, new recruits are not accepted for illegal activities immediately. Several attempts to infiltrate the ALF have recently been made by the police. However, there is nothing to stop anyone glueing up the locks of fur shops, butchers etc (except the police). So the next time our feminist sisters are glueing up a sex shop, perhaps a few fur shops could be added to the list.

From an ALF'er who wishes to remain anon.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

ON SATURDAY 4th JUNE THERE WILL BE A DEMO  
AT SHAMROCK FARMS, WORTHING, PRECEDED BY A  
RALLY IN BRIGHTON. THE DEMO WILL BE TO  
PROTEST AGAINST THE BREEDING OF ANIMALS FOR  
EXPERIMENTS AT THE FARM. HASTINGS & BEXHILL  
ANIMAL AID WILL BE RUNNING TRANSPORT TO THE  
DEMO. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT CARL  
ON HASTINGS 445988.

Send donations for the fighting fund to support those arrested on the national demo at Carshalton (see P.F. 29/4/83) to BUAV, 143 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 0EE.

FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....FEEDBACK.....

Here's a missive from someone who's rapidly becoming our most regular contributor!:

Darling Melita and friends, (steady on!!!--T'pist)

Got some interesting replies to the 22nd April issue. I always answer EVERY letter I get even if it's only a postcard to say "Go stick your head in a bucket"; this one ignores the meat of it and roars about a genuine mistake-- either mine (the letter was too long to re-read and correct) or yours (my writing is impossible, stoned or not, dunno how you do it). "True communism is NOT about SOLIDARITY"-- SHOULD have read "Anarchism is not about SOLIDARITY", but it don't matter, as it wasn't a very sensible remark anyway ('s what you wrote, honest!-- T'pist). Most 'anarchists', non-militant ones, don't really consider themselves as anarchists. I know I don't but everyone who knows me sooner or later decides I am one so I specs I am.

When I pointed out to Alan Leader that I aint coz I don't follow or understand politics he just laughed and said that that proves it. Anyway I know a leather-jacketed punk who wears makeup and pink hair and stuff and he says he don't talk to people who wear swastikas after first bawling them out about it (he gets his head kicked in for it), and he agrees that NO-ONE nowadays is so fucking ignorant that they don't know that some people will cringe in fear and horror still at all it represents. Anyone wearing a swastika should NOT wear @ labels in any form. Also they should be tall and blond and blue eyed and heterosexual. We all know darling Rudyard Kipling, who used the symbol to preface all his books, meant it as the peace sign it then was, but now it DON'T and never will again.

My eldest son Zeki won oral English recently using stuff on animal liberation that he'd filched mainly from P.P. It helped him win another year at art college! Thanks, coz he hates reading books but he will read P.P. coz it looks like a comic.

Rush Wajsbium, a well-known feminist (author of 'Women in Prison' available from Just Books, 7 Winetavern St., Smithfield, Belfast 1, and other alternative bookshops, or me) once said I was a feminist, which made me hoot with laughter. She also said, and other feminists-- El Glineor for one, agreed, that I am the most liberated woman she knows, so I feel entitled to yell some advice to them "Women Against Violence" brigade: "Stop worrying, when he has penetrated, then you really got him surrounded." O.K.

Cliff is awful sweet and means well. But don't he give himself away when he refers to MAYFAIR!-- Cliff, they are talking about HARD porn darling. Oh never mind, carry on wanker. My next door neighbour often goes to fetch clothes off the line, wearing not a stitch, whip welts all over his body. Cliff's right, what harm are they doing us? It gives the kids a giggle and don't frighten the horses.

Rape is disgusting and vile and shouldn't be allowed! I think there is only much more of it around nowadays because there are so many more people around. Also women are so free nowadays, even when I was a little girl (not long ago REALLY) it was normal for girls always to be walked home. Nowadays if a guy offers she'll bawl him out and ask if he wants her to take him home, her being better equipped to fight off muggers.

I've run out of "The Anarchist Point of View, Analysis and Criticism of the George Jackson Brigade's Political Statement". They are very popular; I'm getting them printed again next week and will send you one. Any P.P. reader wanting one can write to me. It's a must for anarchists everywhere. From this next lot I'll send some to various alternative bookshops at home and abroad. It's pure Carl Harp, edited by our mutual friend John R. Bosch. It was written in Walla-Walla while Carl was still with his friends, before the screws killed him. Please contribute towards the postage though. 20p. It's a "I Wanna Be Free" sized pamphlet. At present only available from me as John sent me only copy, but if you at Free Press would like to copy it and run off a few copies we should all be DELIGHTED. This goes for anything any of us Friends of Doug Wakefield writes. I know your machines could run it out cheaper.

Continued on page 5.....

Continued from P4....

A couple of months ago a young black man leapt out of his car leaving the engine running and badly parked, and tried to drag me into our alley as I was on my way to chip shop. I thought he wanted to mug me and offered him me chippy money but his urge was even more basic. He wouldn't take "no" for an answer and I had to bash him up in the end. He was still hanging on the fence hours later when I let the dogs out, and I've still got his watch. The car was stolen by a passing citizen who politely ignored us fighting in the alley. I am not a softie but if I go out alone at night now, especially at weekends, I take all my dogs.

I told this story (parts of it) to a local cop during an argument and said he should be making the streets safe to walk in instead of complaining about silly little bent credit cards and he said I should have "beat the bloke to a pulp". I asked what would happen to me if I did and he snaered and said they would lock me up at once coz they couldn't have people taking the law into their own hands!!

Luvins,

Annie. Friends of Doug Wakefield, 14 Warren Rd.,  
Leyton, London E10.

P.S. Someone accused me of having been to college! (shows how well you correct my grammar and spelling mistakes!) Just for the record I hardly went to school at all and never after 13 years of age, but spent a lot of my early years in prison reading "Reader's Digest" which no doubt accounts for my apparent "good education".

And an advert from Annie: FREE-- good home wanted for greyhound bitch plus free licence & green shield stamps. Eats shoes, handbags, records & food. Named Eats (Enemy of the State). She has bad nerves and shits indoors.

\*\*\*\*\*

And in the absence of anything very exciting happening in Hastings, we bring you....

#### NEWS FROM BRIGHTON

##### EPISODE I: ANTI-MILITARISM::::

From the 10th till the 12th of May the Defence Components Expo '83 was held at the Brighton Hotel Metropole.

We are often told that atomic weapons "keep the peace" but what kind of peace is there in a world where capitalists make huge profits out of the arms trade while people starve in the third world? It has been estimated that the amount of money needed to feed, clothe, educate and provide clean water and medical care for everyone in the world for one year is \$17 billion. This is the amount of money which is spent on arms every two weeks.

Since 1945 95% of wars have been fought in the third world and ten million people have been killed in them. It is this trade built on murder and poverty which provides the vampire arms dealers with their fat profits.

But they haven't had it all their own way over the last week in Brighton:

Several of the temporary staff employed at the Metropole walked out in protest at the arms fair being held there.

:Rotting fish were hidden in strategic positions around the hotel, providing an appropriate odour of death and decay to the proceedings.

:During the night of the 9th/early morning of the 10th, the front entrance to the Metropole was paint-bombed and over a dozen expensive-looking cars in its car park were damaged. A Royal Navy air/sea rescue helicopter stationed on the sea front as part of a recruiting drive had anarchist and anti-militarist slogans sprayed on it.

:On the evening of the 10th a civic reception was held at the Brighton Centre for the arms traders. This was picketed by a group of women who offered guests "blood" to drink and played a tape of a baby screaming through an amplifier.

:On the 11th there was a midday blockade of the Metropole involving about one hundred people. As the arms traders entered and left they were greeted with cries of "murderers", "scum", "filth", "go and kill your own children" and "when is murder not murder? When it's for profit".

Continued on next page....



At one point about sixty people rushed the entrance and sat down on the steps linking arms, thus totally blocking the way in. The cops waded in very violently punching people and dragging some out of the way by their hair. One arrest was made but people got in front of the cop van to stop it from driving off. Again people were violently pushed and dragged out of the way. Later another smaller attempt was made to block the entrance by an all-women group.

will have been a waste of time and our money. Anyway, it only remains to be seen how our wonderful system of "Justice" will despatch these cases. We'll keep you informed.

melita.

\*\*\*\*\*

EPISODE 3: LA GRANDE ILLUSION:\*\*\*\*

Steve.

\*\*\*\*\*

EPISODE TWO: "IT'S AN UNFAIR 'COP, GUV....."\*\*\*\*

The trials took place last Tuesday (10th) of two of those arrested at the Brighton Unemployed Centre demo (see P.P. 6th May).

One of the defendants had come down from London to Brighton magistrates' courts, bringing a witness with him. He had not decided how he would plead until he stood in the dock and heard the charge read out against him, one of obstructing the highway and obstructing a police officer. He pleaded not guilty, and his case was adjourned until the 8th June.

The second defendant is a local man, and he decided to plead guilty to the charge of obstruction, just to get the thing over and done with. However, the police amended their charge at the last minute, changing the name of the officer he was alleged to have obstructed, and when the charge was read out in court, the police also added that he had put his arm under a cop's jaw and tried to pull the first defendant away from the clutches of the cops.

He admitted that he had stood in front of the cop and argued with him about why he was arresting the first man, but denied totally that he had put his arm under the cop's jaw, an allegation which, surely, would amount to assault on a police officer.

In spite of this, he still pleaded guilty-- but in their infinite wisdom, the two representatives of Her Majesty's Judiciary refused to accept his guilty plea and adjourned his case 'til June 8th! So presumably, if he pleads not guilty next time but still claims he stood in front of the cop, he'll be found guilty and the whole thing

Whilst in Brighton for the abovementioned court cases, your roving reporters ventured forth to a meeting organised by the local branch of the Socialist Workers Party, at which Paul Foot was speaking. Foot (in case you never travel on trains, rummage in litter bins or listen to Radio 4) is the nephew of Michael, leading light of the SWP and columnist in the Daily Mirror (hence refs. to litter bins & trains-- gedditt?? oh never mind).

I must say I found Footie quite an entertaining speaker, certainly much better than Uncle Michael-- but then that's not difficult; a festering lump of wombat's turd could do a better job-- and for the first forty-five minutes or so there wasn't much with which one could disagree in what he said.

We heard about how parliamentary "democracy" is rotten through; about how union bosses sell the workers down the river; about the way in which politicians lie through their collective dentures simply in order to gain power. All very reasonable stuff. Until...

Having gone on for so long about how rotten the system is, and how voting in a Labore government won't make the slightest difference to the way the country is "run", he then exhorted the faithful to go out and vote Labour at the general election!! Unfortunately he never explained why one should follow this peculiar and highly suspect path of inaction, but then I suppose one should not ask such subversive questions, just follow the example of our leaders and they will guide us towards salvation.

"Voting Labour without illusions" is the phrase the SWP use to excuse their perverse actions. Presumably they add a note to the bottom of the ballot paper which says something like: "Well I know if you get into power you won't stick to any of your promises, and parliament's a load of crap, but I don't pto....."

continued.....

have any illusions about this, but I'm going to vote for you anyway 'cause although you're rotten, you're not quite as rotten as the other lot (I think.....)". How touching is their desperate clinging to the sinking ship of parliamentary "democracy". And how pathetic their desire to prop up a system they acknowledge as rotten through.

As the 12th Century Chinese philosopher Sh'io Tzu said:

"A slave in chains reached two doors. He opened the first; behind it was a rocky and treacherous road leading to a mountain in the distance. The mountain was lush and verdant and there was plenty for all its inhabitants. He pondered for a moment, then opened the second door. Behind that was a tyrant giving each slave a bowl of rice in return for their cruel toil. The slave entered the second door for he was hungry after his day's toil and he too desired the tyrant's mean reward."

melita.

~~~~~

Continued from front page.....

They noticed that two adjacent loo doors were closed. "So what?" you may think. The police didn't think that at all. They both got down on their hands and knees and looked under the doors. In one cubicle they saw a man's feet facing the other cubicle, while the occupant of that cubicle was kneeling.

The cops didn't run away, minding their own business. Oh no. With the assistance of the other officer, one of the cops looked over the top of the doors and saw one man performing fellatio on the other through a hole in the dividing wall. Both men were promptly arrested and charged with gross indecency.

But gross indecency to whom? Only to the police, as far as I can see. Both men were over 21, both were obviously consenting adults.

When the case came up on Tuesday, both men were clearly humiliated, and one said he felt "ashamed of himself", but he was grateful to his wife and kids for standing by him, and that he was now going to seek medical help. Both men were fined.

The whole thing appalled and disgusted me. That cops should lay in wait in such a manner and then intrude on a person's privacy like that shows them up to be the lowest form of life on this earth. May they rot in their own excrement.

Hexachord Fantasy.

~~~~~

Do any of our readers have any comments to add to this?

HOORAY, the last page and about time too.  
Thumbs-up to the Hastings News for their pretty vigorous slag-off of the pompous windbags who make up Hastings Council. Nice one! And what a relief it must have been for newly-elected 'radical' and 'militant' Cllr Richard Stevens to be barred from the Council chamber last night unless he wore his robe. At least that spares him the embarrassment of making up excuses for the future when people accuse him of copping out. He's made his token gesture now, so he can quite happily stand for the mayor and for the prayers and take part in all the other stupid rigmarole which surrounds Council meetings without feeling too many pangs of guilt. Like we always say-- Don't Vote- it really does encourage them!

@@@@@@@@

A WORD OF WARNING TO OUR READERS::::: Beware of anyone turning up on your doorstep from the Dept. of (un)Employment with a spiel about carrying out some sort of survey into who is and isn't employed. Apparently these people claim that the survey will be carried out anonymously-- what crap!-- it's not that hard to trace someone's name once you've got their address. Since the DMS has details of people who are not working and the National Insurance people would know all about who was, the need for a door-to-door survey is irrelevant. More likely what they're after is information about who is claiming and working.

So beware! Remember you don't have to let anybody into your home-- get them to make an appointment with you first if they want to see you. Arrange to have a friend there to listen in as well and you DON'T have to tell them anything. Don't let them bluff you, scare you or promise you anything if you give them the info they're after.

If any of our readers have had experience of this mystery survey from the DoE, please get in touch.

@@@@@@@@

LETTERS, ARTICLES AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS are welcome for inclusion in Poison Pen. Either give your contributions to a passing P.P. person, or drop them in at 18a Markwick Terrace (basement), St Leonards-on-sea, Sussex, or c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards. The @ Centre at 18a Markwick T. is open Tuesday and Friday afternoons, 2-5 both days. This coming Tuesday, we will be playing a game whereby we will endeavour to blow up the world (!) so come along and join in if you've nothing better to do and I'm sure you haven't. Wholefoods, @ books & papers are also on sale. Drop in and have a cup of tea if you're passing. Hastings @'s also meet every Monday night at 9:15 at Mr Cherry's pub along Marina. And we're also very impoverished: last week's collection amounted to less than £2, while it cost nearer £8 to produce. If you receive a copy regularly, please give at least 5p to cover costs. Tai oooops now me typing's gone all wonky. Anyway, this week's edition was typed as usual by me (will I be arrested for wearing men's clothing??-- see next week's ish & find out!). P&P by HFP.



# POISON PEN

SP  
MORE OR  
LESS

TURD  
OF  
JUNE  
1983  
(A)

HASTINGS 'ALTERNATIVE WEEKLY JOURNAL

## ~~CROSS OUT!~~

LAST SUNDAY AND MONDAY a group of animal rights campaigners held a peaceful picket at the Pier and distributed leaflets in protest at the circus which will be coming here later in the summer.

Cross Bros.' Circus was using the opportunity of a Bank Holiday weekend to advertise its spectacle and had utilised the services of a shabby scabby moth-chewed llama, a baby bear stuck in a narrow cage in a van and a couple of equine beasties.

During our two stints on the mornings of each day we distributed around two-and-a-half thousand leaflets, receiving either a non-committal reaction or a very favourable one from the bulk of the people to whom we spoke and gave leaflets. And the representatives of Cross Bros. certainly lived up to their appropriate name (such fine figures of humanity too, especially the one resembling a weeble!) when they called the cops in a vain attempt to thwart our efforts. Hard luck on them, 'cause there was nothing they could do about it though.

Circuses are dying out generally, and it seems this year is make-or-break as far as Cross Bros. are concerned, so if you're bothered about the exploitation of animals to make money for greedy humans, this is a chance to take an active part in opposing it. There will be future leafletting expeditions until the time that the circus arrives, when more direct action will be taken.

If you would like to give a hand for an hour or so on a weekend morning, please get in touch with P.P. or drop by at the Pier. The more the merrier! Like the graffiti says: "CROSS CROSS OUT!"

melita.

p.s. we won't be there tomorrow (Saturday) 'cause there's a demo at Shamrock Farm... Rentamob strikes again whooooopeee!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

PLZ  
S: BROOMGROVE CAPERS  
BANK HOLIDAY CAPERS  
DEAD PUNK CAPERS

## ON MOTOR (MOTOR) BIKES

OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS the Hastings News has aired the complaints of residents of the Broomgrove Estate who claim that they are being menaced by youths on motor bikes: parts of the estate are being used as a scrambling course, and some pensioners have complained that they are having to vacate their homes during the day because of the noise involved, and if the youths are told to move away they retaliate with foul language and threats etc. It is all very well to blame them entirely, but it's not as simple as that.

The first headline when reporting the story read "Noisy Yobs Drive Old to Despair"; the horrid word "yobs", being a term generally used to debase young people, should not have been applied. It may well be true that the bikes and the owners of them are causing distress, but it is also true that the conditions which exist in places like the Broomgrove Estate are a recipe for trouble.

All those who have to live in the grotty place are people caught up in a situation, being situated miles from the town centre, with high bus fares, low incomes, squalor, little or no recreation facilities, very few shops and of course the problems that arise from the vast age differences.

The elderly want peace and quiet, not possible in such a community. Some persistently complain about the noise made by children playing and anything else that doesn't suit them. This very often leads to agitation and results in deliberate acts of annoyance, and invective.

All this could be avoided if proper facilities were provided to cater for the needs of all the various age groups. The Council's answer is to spend more money on top of the £140,000 already allocated to the improvement programme, which will involve making new footpaths, building walls and creating gardens. All this is designed to deter motor gangs and combat vandalism. How stupid: if no money is provided to improve play areas and provide a scrambling course, it can only invite further vandalism. It has also been announced that policing of the estate is to be stepped up, which can only increase resentment.

It is rather like trying to stamp out a disease while ignoring the conditions which cause it. All these problems are symptoms of the big disease that affects all our lives: the system. We must fight it and destroy it.

Lauren Disorder &  
Hugh Lee Gann.

ARTICLES, LETTERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF EVERY ARONA are always welcome for inclusion in Poison Pen. Send your jottings, scribbles, missives ("what's wrong with 'letter'?" I hear irate readers growl) and other things to us at 14a Warwick Terrace, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, or c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards. Come to that, a bit of money wouldn't come amiss either eh?? And since everyone is complaining about those funny little quid coins, let me say that we're not at all fussy about the sort of money we receive (as long as there's enough of it to buy paper, ink etc) so you're more than welcome to offload all those unwanted pounds onto us eh? Go on eh? eh?

Now then; poor old Councillor Marchant's been receiving a pretty rotten press in the local papers recently, so this should redress the balance:

Dear P.P.,

I would like to put the record straight through your organ. The blatant smear campaign being waged by the local press and the local Labour party against myself is the most vicious of its kind since my friend Peter Tatchell was subjected to a similar campaign in Bermondsey.

The attempt to associate me with the SDP is unfortunate and could harm those still in the Labour party, Annette and Mike, fighting for SDP policies.

I AM LABOUR despite the smears and lies, which are probably spread by that vile Trot Stevens and his sycophant Wallace Arnold the ASLEF man. I do not earn £15,000 per year and I am not Peter Parker's super grass on Southern Region, right hand man is a better description.

Locally my political future is in doubt. Arfur Straight and Jack C. Rook are thinking of forming a New Party which will make Britain great again. I think I will still wear my nice red robe, and I am glad that Comrade Stevens finally decided to wear his. I hope that now he realises the problems of having power he will understand his responsibilities and drop the more wild programmes that he has advocated. There really is no demand for creches for Black Lesbians on Broomgrove, or anywhere else in Hastings for that matter.

All this talk about me being a Fascist is tripe spread by the Young Militant and Bloxhamite Georgiou. I just stand up for the working people, who wouldn't want them living next door either. Mosley had the right idea, we need more Union Jacks after our National pride has so recently been reasserted.

This is what I hate about the Labour party locally, it is taken over by Middle Class intellectuals, who know what is best for the working class, because they all have economics degrees.

I am a working man, I may be paid enormous sums of money to scab, I may be bigoted and prejudiced, but I must pander to the opinions of the working class, which the Sun and the Daily Mail have done so much to educate. And in the final analysis if I was a true socialist it might cost me the votes of Young People who have little to do all day except cut their hair and shout "Oi", after all it is all about votes isn't it.

Yours fraternally,

Reagan Marchant.

@@@@@@@@@@

It's always our pleasure to be put to the services of someone so maligned.....

And talking of malignancies.....

ALL BOW DOWN AND PAY HOMAGE TO YOUR LEADERS:

Didn't we have a luvverly day on Bank Holiday Monday then? Aside from the usual excitement of the traditional invasion of warring youth cults (half a dozen fickoes with short barnets and boots and another half dozen spotty adolescents falling off clapped-out scooters), we inhabitants of this fair town had a real treat in store for us. Yes! A "Festival for Peace & Jobs"! Oooooohweeees! Only in a place like Hastings could Mayday be transferred to the end of the month.....

Well, we dutifully assembled at the Oval at the appointed time for the march down to Wellington Square. At this time there were more cops assembled than there were marchers-- about twice as many, in fact-- but no doubt all the other would-be marchers were out doing their bit canvassing for the Labour party. However, by about an hour later, a reasonable size crowd had amassed, augmented by the Expedient Marching Band and so off we set.

(Just going to pop off and reappear on the bottom of the next page.....



The influence of lifestyle and diet, on disease.

Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, the realization of a link between social conditions and ill health has allowed for the reduction in mortality due to infectious disease. Given the examples of water and food supplies, various social reformers of the eighteenth and nineteenth century realized the connection between pure water supply and clean food production, and the reduction of infectious disease.

In Munich in 1860, Max Von Pettenkofer successfully controlled the spread of Cholera, by isolating waste sewage disposal from the supply of drinking water. Improved living conditions and a greater knowledge of nutrition led to a more rapid reduction in disease than many of the major discoveries of Mechanistic Medical Science (Orthodox Medicine), during the late 1800's and early 1900's. An example of this is Tuberculosis;- In 1850, 500 people per 100,000 died from known Tuberculosis infection, in Britain, by 1950, the number had reduced to 50 people per 100,000. The anti TB drugs, such as P.A.S. (para amino-salicylic acid), Isoniazid and Streptomycin, delivered a final blow to an already conquered disease, when these became available during the late 1950's.

It is interesting to note that due to the "Recession" causing a depletion in finance available for house repair, improvements to sanitary equipment and a general fall in the quality of house conditions, there has been a 4% increase in known TB infections during the period 1974-80, compared with the previous five years. There has not been an equitable reduction in the number of people not being immunised during this period.

Despite the overall reduction in the incidence of fatal infectious disease, two non infectious killer diseases are on the increase, they are; Coronary Heart Disease, and most kinds of Cancer, particularly Cancer of the Lung and alimentary tract. In 1951 the Brook Hospital and twenty two others conducted a survey, and intensive tests on 1000 patients. The conclusion of the survey was a direct linking between smoking and Cancer of the Lungs. Further worldwide research has confirmed the Tobacco link with cancer, and extended the research to prove conclusively that smoking increases the narrowing of the arteries and the depletion of oxygen reaching the tissues, particularly the Heart Muscle, leading directly to Coronary Heart Disease.

Having established the link between smoking and fatal illness, it would have seemed plausible to expect people to stop smoking and for governments to actively discourage it, however medical science demanded a finite reason for the disease. The mechanistic approach to research isolated several cocarcinogens (Cancer Causing agents) in Tobacco. These chemicals which when allowed contact with living tissue, cause a proliferation of mutated, and cancerous cells, which attack and destroy surrounding healthy tissues. Similar cancer causing substances are found in processed food and the incidence of Cancer of stomach is higher in those who eat mainly processed food, by twice that of those who eat mainly wholefoods.

Processing food reduces the natural bulk or dietary fibre content, this results in a reduction in the stimulation of the sensory nerves of the alimentary tract thus depleting the natural wave like motions (Peristalsis) which transports food stuffs through the gut.

Continued on next page.....

@@@@@@@@@@

and here's another bit of the previous page....

It was a shame that the band was playing so loudly, because it meant that we could not join in the Approved Chants. Still, some people were carrying "People's Crawl for Wage Slavery" banners, so that made up for it. At Wellington Square we were greeted by several more of our friends, the Workers in Uniform, and then a PA was set up so we could pay homage and take heed of the wise words of our leaders.

John Gurdon from the CND and Maggie from Women for Peace spoke about disarmament; some character from the New Statesman who was supposed to be famous spoke about nothing much of interest, then we were lucky enough to have our Labour party candidate.....

## Diet & Disease Continued.

The food material is then lodged in the slowly moving canal, causing a build up of toxins and cocarcinogens, against the wall of the Gut. This gives rise to an increased likelihood of Cancer of the Alimentary Tract. Other diseases of Malabsorption such as Crohns Disease, Diviticulitis, and Collitis, are predominantly Western diseases, virtually unknown in the Third world, these diseases are easily connected with the West's highly refined diet. The incidence of Heart Disease is also increasing in the West, this is probably due to the high consumption of refined foods and excessive and unnatural intake of Animal fats as food. Animal tissue contains large amounts of Cholesterol and other Polyunsaturated fats which can lead to coronary artery disease as a great deal of Cholesterol consumed ends up deposited by the blood stream on the inner surfaces of arteries. Vegetarians even in the West, are 20 times less likely to suffer a heart attack than people who eat dead animals, (These statistics apply only to those who have been non meat eating all their lives).

Diseases such as Coronary Thrombosis (Heart Attacks) and Cerebrovascular Incidents (Strokes), and also Cancer seem more common in certain sections of Society, this is often due to a reduction in susceptibility to stress as well as diet. Stress and nervous tension, are symptomatic of our rat-race, wage-slave society, during periods of stress tissues in the body release substances called Catecholamines, these bring about physiological changes, allowing the body to respond to sudden crisis, ie: The increased amount of adrenalin available to the sprinter just before a race. However prolonged exposure to these substances, which often occurs in Western Society, lead to an increased workload on the Heart, rising Blood Pressure and resultant often fatal disease.

The groups in society best able to cope with stress, are those who are members of close knit groups where feelings and pentup emotions are freely channelled away from the body, also people who practice meditation artistic pursuits are able to cope with stress far more easily than most.

Sources,  
World Health Organisation, year books 1982.  
Socialist Health Association.  
New International

|    |              |
|----|--------------|
| SI | Somewhere    |
|    | Anywhere     |
|    | In Hastings. |

May 1983  
Dear Lord Sainsbury,  
If I promise not to unplug your dead animal food freezer, can I use  
your stores again.  
(Up) Yours  
A Friend.  
Es I wont mind the political levy on everything I buy being paid to the SDP.  
(Much).

Life Joke !  
I could die,

Thats easy - but then the guilt

(No . thats the biggest sin you commit)  
Down on your knees ,  
Life is for living (Your not one of us)  
Go ahead then, die your not worth burying.  
By a guy who recently attempted suicide.

Dear P.P., I have been watching the great punk debate with some interest and I decided to add my views on this subject.

--- Firstly I feel that punk died in 1977, if not earlier. All the punks were so eager to slag off The Clash (yes Crass) but no-one remembered the Sex Pistols on Virgin Records and the Pistols are still the best punk band ever. Another point: a lot of punks put swastikas on their person and some even support the NF or BM then moan about police oppression.

A lot of punks wear @ signs but do they know what @ really means? Some of the punks I know hate gays and even attacked some of them. Is that freedom?

Another thing: I attended a couple of the Manchester NMAF (North West @ Federation) meetings and found them interesting and constructive. Later on, some months after the meeting, I met a punk who said he had been to one of the meetings but said he left because it was boring. What does he want? A gig? Of course some @ meetings are slightly boring but if people are going to get together and be constructive then talking is necessary. Talking is the first step to organising.

Is fucking the system sniffing glue? I used to sniff glue myself but stopped when I realised the damage to my health. Now I also feel that it is the system's bribe-like hippies with their dope and acid on their country retreats who just wanna be left alone man--the punks with their glue bags in derelict houses and wastelands who just want to be left alone to die slowly of collapsed lungs or?

On to Crass. They say "reject heroes" but a lot of punks have their signs on their jackets (including me) and look up to them like gods and talk and write in their slogans (not including me). If Crass see this obvious hero worship why don't they stand by their principles and pack it in and use their resources for a more constructive propaganda exercise? Or do they like being youth leaders (power corrupts)?

And as for their "fuck big business" attitude: you can still buy their records in Virgin and HMV Records. And on to their anti-religion stand-- "if you don't like religion you can be an anti-Christ"-- as if Christianity was the only religion. Or is anti-Christ another passive consumer role? Anti-Christ is from the Bible anyway.

I still wear bondage pants and studded leather and buy and listen to punk records but I recognise punk for what it is-- a style of dressing and music, nothing more. You'll never destroy the system with Rock & Roll.

Ta, @,

Lee.

Manchester.

@#@#@#@#@

And more.....

Regarding the last two articles which I wrote about the youth cult termed "punk", I'd like to make a few points:-

- i) I myself am not a punk rocker or anything along those lines; although the bands I like are often termed as "punk", they would never call themselves it.
- ii) I also agree with the footnote about the punk barmy army. You only have to go to a gig to experience this where fights constantly break out and people who do not conform to the stereotyped punk image are often picked upon by the so-called hardcore punks, your average mail-order one.
- iii) I agree that punk is a total failure and will never achieve anything since it is yet another label and labels divide people and the more we are divided the less we can ever hope to achieve.
- iv) The reason for me writing was a joke. I was playing the part of the boring part-time Crass clone, the stereotyped anarcho-punk created by the people who exploit this cult. Also I wanted to see what sort of reply I would get and to see if anybody out there really thought what I wrote.
- v) I also write a fanzine not a punkzine which is going to be folded due to lack of money and then I'm going to a 'zine just full of personal thoughts and ideas which no doubt will bring up the subject of punk in it.

Signed

you've-really-got-them-confused-now-CHRIST.

P.S. I'm called CHRIST because I'm the second coming of the messiah.

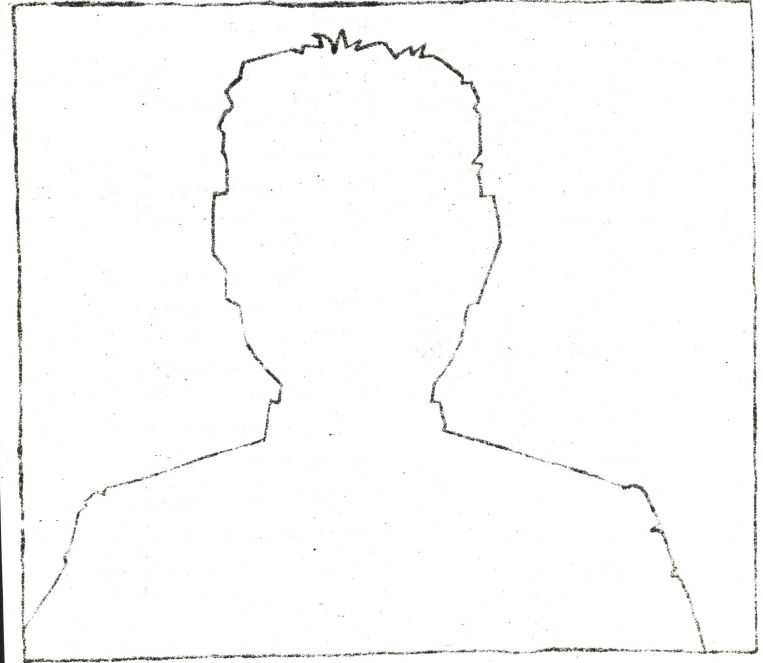
Milton Keynes.





# VOTE FOR

## »NOBODY«



THE ONLY CANDIDATE TO ACT  
IN YOUR INTERESTS

# POISON PEN

27-6-'83

YOU GOT WHAT YOU VOTED

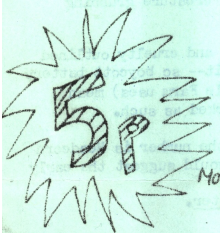
FOR!

HA HA!



SAVES JUST THE SAME

CHANGE THE FACE AND THE NAME - BUT THE



MORE OR LESS





#### A DAY IN THE COUNTRY

June 11th-18th was designated "National Week of Action for the Abolition of the Battery Cage". 96% of eggs produced in this country come from hens kept under battery conditions. Under present legislation it is permitted to keep five birds in cages measuring 18"x20". This means that each bird has 4" of cage width-- the wing span of a chicken is about 30".

In order to make vast profits for the scum who run these establishments, chickens are kept in appallingly cruel conditions: they never see sunlight, they cannot walk, they cannot spread their wings, let alone fly, many have their beaks cut off with a red-hot blade, they cannot feed in their natural manner, they live constantly in the stench of their own shit-- in some units huge piles of shit build up under the cages; sometimes birds drop through into this and wander around until they die from lack of food and water.

As part of this week of action, on Sunday 11th a number of animal liberationists from Hastings teamed up with others from the Maidstone area to take part in a raid/demo at one of these places. Our target was Barradale Farm near Headcorn (near Maidstone) and about fifty people took part in this well-planned and totally unannounced action. It was a pleasure to see the look of shock on the face of some person whom I think may have been the manager as he brandished a spade and shouted at us to "fucking get out" before realising that he didn't stand a chance. Some people stayed at the entrance with banners while the rest of us headed for the units.

In a way the units were how I expected them to be so I can't really say that I was "shocked"; indeed, it seemed that these were probably not units of the worse kind: the hens had not been debeaked and didn't look as ill as many battery hens do. Most of them still had feathers. The thing that you cannot be prepared for beforehand is the stench and the noise. What struck me most powerfully was the complete unnaturalness of the set-up. Of course it's cruel, any idiot can see that, but it's also something else which in a way is worse: the hens are being denied the possibility of being themselves, of living according to their own nature. They have been converted into egg-- and profit-- producing machines. I can't really explain it properly; I suggest you go and look at one of these places yourself but make sure you go mob-handed coz they won't let you in otherwise.

I found a dead bird lying in a corner of one unit, just slung away once there was no chance of wringing more money out of it.

A certain amount of damage was done just so they would know we'd been there-- a tractor window smashed, empty egg trays destroyed and laying schedules torn up. After about fifteen minutes the cops turned up and we left the premises to continue the demonstration outside the gates.

Barradale Farm produces eggs for "Goldenlay" who sell them with the aid of adverts on the telly which play up the myth of Idyllic Rural England with happy peasants wandering home through green pastures to eat Goldenlay eggs for tea. One is no doubt supposed to believe that the chicken which laid them is some happy creature grubbing around in the yard outside. Sickening crap.

If you eat battery eggs you are supporting the exploitation and cruelty outlined in this article and lining the pockets of those responsible for it-- so boycott battery eggs. Also remember that phrases like "farm fresh" (which Barradale Farm uses) mean nothing at all-- eggs are Free Range only if they are clearly marked as such.

If you should wish to phone Barradale Farm for any reason, the number is Headcorn 890281. Seeing as the people who run it live on the premises, I would suggest the early hours of the morning.

Snatch Foster.

THE QUESTION OF A NON-MEAT DIET is for the majority of workers in the world academic. It is only fussy liberals in the West who wrestle with the morality of the issue.

For workers the question is one of simple economics. It is only recently that meat is a part of a worker's diet, even in the affluent West. For centuries the workers and peasants existed on staple diets of wheat, maize or potatoes, not due to philosophical convictions but because meat was totally beyond the purchasing power of the average person. We had the Corn Laws rather than the Beef Laws, and "Merrie England" was, and still is, largely an illusion.

I am sure that the people of Ethiopia, and Bangladesh, both scenes of chronic famines, sympathise with the vegetarian arguments but in these cases if you offer them anything edible they will eat it regardless. Indeed it is foolish and ridiculous to preach morality of carnivorousness to the inhabitants of the Sahara where non-meat foodstuffs are totally unavailable.

It is because workers in the Third World have been forced by vicious bonapartist regimes to accept inferior foodstuffs that we are able to enjoy affluence, wrestle with moral indignation and so forth. Given the chance, these workers, and the majority of British workers, would totally enjoy a piece of roast beef, and generally consider that animals are here as food for the rest of us. It is the height of arrogance for a bunch of small-minded liberals to say or imply that the working class should change its eating habits because they have seen the light.

Having said that, meat eating in Britain before the last World War was considered a status symbol for all those aspiring to become ruling class. It was a status symbol because of its price more than anything.

If the workers overthrow capitalism tomorrow it is probably inevitable if the event occurred on a world scale that meat production would be curtailed in favour of greater arable production. However, in times of extreme adversity moral niceties are pushed to one side and people eat anything.

In the Seventies a plane crash resulted in survivors eating their dead companions to survive and in the name of survival and starvation people eat anything.

Therefore it is rather distracting to talk of vegetarianism now in Britain because the majority of the world's people don't have any choice. Considerations such as this are one of the benefits of living in the country which has exploited the rest of humanity, and for that matter nature, for hundreds of years, and should be viewed in that context.

Spartacus.

oooooooooooo

A REPLY:::::

Thanks for your letter, Spart. In reply, I'll begin at the last point you raise: you say it is "distracting to talk of vegetarianism now in Britain". Distracting from what? "Crossroads"? The latest royal spectacle? The class struggle? It is precisely because of the parasitic nature of the West's relationship with the Third World that the majority of the world's people don't have any choice. Therefore, to consider vegetarianism as a valid alternative diet to the meat-centred one we are all brainwashed into believing is desirable is a way of rejecting that parasitic relationship.

There is no doubt that the use of land for rearing livestock as opposed to arable use is very wasteful. It takes fourteen pounds of vegetable protein to produce one pound of animal protein. The fat and greedy West is draining the Third World of its resources, which it needs to feed its own people. Most agricultural research in developing countries is directed at the improving of cash crops for export, rather than producing food for the countries' own inhabitants. Most cash crops are used to feed cattle, and their production uses up most of the fertiliser stocks in poor countries, as well as pesticides and energy and the best land. All this is a hangover from the old colonial days.

Continued on next page.....



Another "favour" bestowed on the Third World by its colonists was the import of the grazing cow. In Africa this animal is creating deserts by eliminating grass; however, the native wild animals produce six times as much meat per acre and conserve land. Just because we live in a country which has historically exploited all and sundry, it does not mean that we should accept the situation. This is one of the reasons why people choose not to eat meat. Is it a "distraction" to be concerned about the West's exploitation of the Third World?

Meat production-- especially intensive methods of farming-- is very wasteful in terms of energy. And we all know which countries are best off as regards energy. Water is also a more precious commodity in some areas of the world than we might consider it to be here. It takes between sixty to two-hundred-and-twenty-five gallons of water to produce one pound of grain, whereas one pound of meat costs between two-and-a-half thousand and six thousand gallons of water. And that's in a world where only 3% of the water is fresh (and three-quarters of that is frozen) and is unevenly distributed in favour of-- guess whom-- the West.

The point about the survivors in the plane crash eating the dead in this case is sophistry. I do not doubt that, if faced with a life-and-death situation, most vegetarians and even vegans would eat flesh (both animal and human) in order to survive. But it is a plain fact that most people in the West are not starving. Therefore, because we are fortunate enough to have that choice between meat-eating and vegetarianism, we should consider fully the implications of what we do and make decisions accordingly.

Up to 90% of the grain (both home-produced and imported) in the rich nations is fed to animals to produce meat and dairy products. Intensive feeding methods use up "surplus" stocks and this keeps prices up worldwide. Animals in the West eat about one-third of the world's total crops, which is more than the people of India and China put together. Almost all the world's production of soya beans and groundnuts go the same way. Lucrative export markets mean that the poor just cannot compete in terms of money, and hence go without.

In the West we are conditioned into thinking that meat is a necessary part of the diet and meat consumption has been rising. Between 1950 and 1973, U.S. consumption of beef rose from 50lbs per head per year to 119lbs. The USSR (capitalism by any other name.....) started a massive meat-eating drive which reached its peak in 1972 with massive imports of grain to feed cattle, pigs and chickens-- not people.

Apart from the relationship between Third World poverty and the West's massive consumption of meat, the exploitation of animals is another consideration. If it is "the height of arrogance...to say...that the working class should change its eating habits", then surely it is equally arrogant to assume that animals are here to be exploited by humans. Why should we eat them? Because they cannot communicate with us? Because they are lesser beings? Because they are stupid whereas we are intelligent? If that argument is taken to its logical conclusion then there is no reason why we should not also eat mongols, blind, deaf and dumb people, senile old people and so on.

Animals are also treated very cruelly during their lives. Capitalism and competition has driven many farmers into more intensive methods of farming which just make animals into meat machines and, consequently, money machines. Multinational companies like ICI and Ciba-Geigy make millions out of developing new methods of feeding-- if you can get to see "The Animals Film" this highlights clearly the connection between capitalism and the exploitation of animals. Is it "distracting" to be concerned about the ruthless growth and exploitation of capitalism?

And whilst on the subject of multinationals, it is inevitable that people who wish to profit from the exploitation of animals have no qualms about using humans to the same end. Fisons, Ciba-Geigy, Glaxo, ICI et al are all responsible for the dumping of thousands of useless drugs on the Third World, which are at best penances and at worst downright dangerous. Is it a "distraction" to be opposed to that?

Cont. on back page....



Well, it's inevitable that we'd get onto that subject eventually....fed up with the Erection eh? Tuff!

Excalibur House,  
Hornsey Road,  
HASTINGS,  
East Sussex.

Dear Poison Pen,

THE TORY ELECTION MEETING-- CHRISTCHURCH.

Rule Britannia, Britannia rules the waves.....Sorry got a bit carried away there.

This was one of the most boring political meetings that I have ever been to.

The true nature of Tory policies and all that they represent was revealed in this meeting. The wild hysteria with which the great man himself was greeted and the reverence with which all but a small section of the audience treated even the most insignificant comments made by our Member was quite unnerving.

For a while we thought that we were not alone in our opposition. What sounded like some deranged ultra-leftist Trotskyist demonstration from outside the hall in reality was the same hound which gave Mike Bloxham at the Peace and Jobs Rally such a rousing reception. Obviously the dog can't distinguish between Bloxham and the M.P.

While on the subject of the "leader of the Hastings @", Warren said what a pleasure it was to work with Bloxham on the UBO Action Committee, which is probably the last comment necessary on this renegade.

In his speech Warren revealed that he wanted more languages in schools, "so that British youth could seek unemployment (sic) in the European Community". He gave the impression that it was generally good that European unemployed youth could come to Britain to seek work because this tended to make our youth more competitive. However, he gave an indication of the utter prejudice that is rampant in the Tory Party when he stated that one of the major achievements of the Tory Government was to stop the Frogs (sic) from fishing up to the British coastal waters. I am sure that Mr Warren is not so keen on Asian workers or Black workers coming to Britain, but of course they are not white.

Most of the audience were totally devoid of life especially the one who asked Warren "If Japan had nuclear weapons in 1945 would America have dropped the Bomb?"-- "No," said the Smooth One. The logical development of this argument is that those countries bombs now have carte blanche to roam the world laying waste to any of the diminishing number of countries without bombs. Only lunatics can come to power in Black countries or Third World countries but Reagan and Thatcher are sane.

It is also exclusively revealed that Mr Warren and the Blessed One, for a picture of Her who must be obeyed was fixed there-- onto the most shabby union jack that I have ever seen, love and fervently desire peace, and absolutely hate wars. And yes, reference was made to our brave boys, who defended freedom and democracy, democracy and freedom, so that Britain could walk tall again-- by JINGO. Send her victorious, happy and murderous, long to end democracy, God save Maggie (sorry The Queen AN).

In all it was a very tedious speech and the question were either ignored or side-stepped by the slimy man. Numerous sexist comments were made, and various feeble jokes about the Labour Party and Liberals were made.

Continued on next page.....

The bulging bombshell sitting on Warren's right-- physically and politically-- made a few comments to the effect that if you weren't a Tory by now, it would soon be illegal not to be.

Yours still optimistic that the Reichstag will burn within a year.

P.S. Anyone found reading or distributing this P.P. will be given a blue rinse and introduced to one of the 9,000 bobbies on the beat, personally recruited by Mr Warren.

And poo! didn't at pong when someone's colostomy bag burst???

Vegetarianism continued.....

--It is also cheaper to obtain the necessary proteins from other sources such as grain, pulses and nuts.

So; if it's "only fussy liberals in the West who wrestle with the morality" of the exploitation of people worldwide, as well as that of animals, and the dangers to one's health and all the other considerations mentioned here, then being a "fussy liberal"

melita.

First things first-- unfortunately we have lost the use of our @ Centre, so please-- NO MORE CORRESPONDENCE to 18a Markwick Terrace. We hope to be announcing a new address sometime over the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, please send all correspondence c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

Hastings @ meet on Monday evenings at  
 Mr Cherry's pub, Marina, 9:15. Come along  
 and pick up a P.P.; also any articles or  
**MONEY** (pleaseeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee) are welcome  
 so you can bring 'em along then. We are  
 incurring all sorts of costs left right and  
 centre at the moment, and the only cash we  
 get in is from the sale of P.P.s, so please  
 help out and give 5p for your copy-- we can't  
 afford to lay out money on all the other  
 vital things and keep the paper running too.

If you are interested in anti-circus activity, contact P.P. In the meantime, why not take down any posters you encounter, in shops etc? It's fun and easy!

Cheers to Alistair for his pic of Bloxham's  
best mate which graces our front cover.....

STOP THE CITY.....SEPTEMBER 29th.....ADVANCE  
WARNING.....what's it all about?? More  
details will be in P.P. nearer the time, but  
the general intention is to bring the City  
of London to a halt on Sept. 29th as a  
protest against militarism. Will it work?  
It's up to you. It is being organised by  
London Greenpeace, 6 Endsleigh St., WC1, so  
you can contact them for details in the mean-  
time. Watch this space!!!

P.P. was typed by M. Asever & printed & published by Hastings Free Press.  
byyyyyyyyyyy!



8th JULY 1983

5p OFFICE

# VOISON PEN.

THIS COMING SUNDAY (10th), CROSS BROTHERS' CIRCUS WILL BE STARTING IN HASTINGS. CIRCUSES WHICH USE ANIMALS TO MAKE MONEY FOR PEOPLE ARE NOTHING OTHER THAN EXPLOITATIVE. IF YOU ARE OPPOSED TO THE IDEA THAT IT IS ACCEPTABLE FOR PEOPLE TO USE ANIMALS FOR THEIR OWN ENDS, THEN COME ALONG THIS WEEKEND AND SHOW YOUR OPPOSITION. THERE WILL BE LEAFLETTING AND PEACEFUL PROTEST IN FRONT OF THE PIER, WHERE THE CIRCUS IS TAKING PLACE, ON SATURDAY AT 11am AND ON SUNDAY AT 10am. APPARENTLY THIS SEASON IS MAKE-OR-BREAK FOR CROSS BROTHERS. LET'S MAKE SURE IT'S THE LATTER!

ALSO THIS WEEK:-

'STOP THE CITY'



LETTERS FROM ANNIE.

LABOUR PARTY BOREDOM.

GREEN GATHERING.

ANARCHIST PICNIC.



# OPPOSE WAR— STOP THE CITY

Last Saturday (July 2nd) I attended the first planning meeting for the proposed "Stop the City" action on September 29th (see leaflet reproduced elsewhere in this paper). About forty-five people attended from many different parts of the country as well as from London. Genreally speaking the meeting was positive, constructive and encouraging and everyone left determined to spread the word about the action and start organising to get as many people as possible to take part and make the day as much of a success as possible.

It seems to me that "Stop the City" is potentially the most important event in the present wave of anti-nuclear/anti-militarist activity for two reasons: firstly, because it goes right to the root cause of war-- capitalism; and secondly because it goes beyond the symbolic protests of marches, die-ins etc and involves direct action to achieve a concrete result-- to stop the City from functioning on one of the most important days of the financial year.

Some ideas that were discussed at the planning meeting:

--We must stress the carnival nature of the event. We call on all musicians, clowns, jugglers, theatre groups etc to come and perform at the people's festival in the City on September 29th.

--Telephone blockade. Many phone lines and exchanges in the City come close to being overloaded on busy days as it is. People continually phoning in should cause considerable disruption. In this way those who can't be there in person can still play their part.

--We will try to involve those who work in and around the City. Special effort will be made to contact office cleaners, caretakers and other manual workers in the area. Extra disruption could also be caused by industrial (non) action by public transport workers, print workers at the Times and Guardian and postal workers at Mount Pleasant sorting office.

--Someone suggested putting flowerpots in the road, or better still, let's plant some trees! Apparently the Bank of England has an enormous expanse of white wall which is just crying out for a mural. All kinds of creative vandalism can be employed. It is important to use our imagination.

The success or otherwise of this action will be determined by the strength and organisation of local groups up and down the country. In other words it depends on you, yes YOU. If you are interested in getting involved please talk to any member of the anarchist group or come along to one of our meetings which are held every Monday evening from 9:15 or so in Mr Cherry's pub. In the near future we hope to be holding a special meeting to form a "Stop the City" group. You don't have to be an anarchist to get involved in this-- you just have to want to show your opposition to the plans for war for which this rotten system is preparing us.

Continued on next page.....

P&P by Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road,  
St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.



# OPPOSE THE PLANS FOR WAR - a 'day of reckoning' in London

We want a world without war, or the threat of it. All over the world, people in their millions are realising that the process towards destruction of life and our planet has to be halted. In this country the growing protests and actions to close military bases, along with the protests in the towns, are showing that it's up to ourselves to stop the plans of the State.

This summer nuclear missiles are being secretly installed all over Europe, East and West. While the bases are the last of the steps to military confrontation, the first seem to be the whole system of finance for war - where profits and power are calculated and decisions made.

In London there's one area where such decisions are concentrated - The City. People once lived there but now it's full of Banks, Companies Headquarters, Government buildings and places like the Stock Exchange.

For the sake of ourselves, our children and generations to come we have to stop this madness. So we are calling on everyone to come and help **CLOSE DOWN 'THE CITY'** (especially the Stock Exchange) on **Thurs SEPTEMBER 29th**. On that day, profits for the summer are reckoned up by accountants - **A DAY OF RECKONING**.

A day when people will show that human life is more important than money, and more powerful too.

We also call on people working in the area to strike for the day, and to consider how the financial empires which exploit their labour contribute to the war machine.

And together in the streets we can have a carnival as we reclaim the old area for the people once again. (It's 502 years since we were last there - during the 1381 peasants revolt.)

**Come and STOP 'THE CITY' TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT**

## PLANNING MEETING

Saturday JULY 2nd, 10am - 6pm.

- \* What can people do on September 29th in 'the city'?
- \* Preparing and publicising (i.e. setting up a network of local contacts/groups, all over London and elsewhere. ...)

At the Tonbridge Club, corner Judd St/Cromer St, WC1. (close to Kings Cross). Everyone is encouraged to come along to help make the day a success.

Please pass this leaflet on, photocopy or xerox and discuss with friends, neighbours and workmates, and in city centres and towns in the south.

Contact: Stop The City Campaign, 111 Farringham St, WC1.

TOGETHER WE CAN  
**STOP 'THE CITY'**

**SEPT 29th**

**A 'DAY OF RECKONING'**



**PROTEST  
AGAINST WAR**

Washington - Paris - Berlin - Moscow - Peking - LONDON  
in the centre of the world, war is being planned and financed ... **STOP IT NOW**



ANNIE STRIKES AGAIN! One of our regular correspondents has got really carried away and has written two letters this week! Take it away Annie.....

Dear people,

Our local hospital staff canteen buzzes with the usual staff rumours of amputated limbs being eaten by cats etc as a weary old porter delivers an old leg or summat when the incinerator is unattended, but this year I was 'lucky' enough to witness wiv me own eyes a typical bodge up.

An order came filtering through from above-- nowhere has such a chronic case of too many cowboys' not enough Indians as a hospital-- that from that moment ALL heretofore PAPER rubbish sacks were to be replaced by thin, nearly transparent, bright yellow plastic bags. The bloke in charge of rubbish bags spent a glorious afternoon burning the hugest bonfire and destroyed every paper sack on the premises before Tank came on duty and could steal them for us to sell horse shit in.

- THAT very night in theatre there was an amputation and Tank was the O.D.O. (T'pist) delegated to take it to the incinerator. He put it in a rubbish sack and sealed it-- normal procedure-- but noticed that, unlike before with the paper ones, the limb was easily recognisable through the bright yellow sack, at ten paces.

The way from theatre to the incinerator leads through the busy main corridor and even at 3a.m. one is likely to meet anxious relatives looking for road accident victims. Tank could not bring himself to obey orders and stroll nonchalantly through the hospital swinging an amputated leg in a thin, bright yellow, plastic bag. Eventually he wrapped it in six bags.

What a coincidence that a limb was amputated that same night, thereby highlighting the problem so soon, and that the O.D.O. assigned to the task was Tank. Half of them would have charged straight off, just for a laugh.

- Recently I had to dash up there when I was told a kid had "fell out of a tree"-- how glad I am I never bumped into a harassed O.D.O. in the corridor swinging a bag full of spare parts.

.....

Will any prisoner or prisoner's friend reading this PLEASE send a card or letter to ROSE MURRAY who has done so much for prisoners in the U.K. and who is now hospitalised with bowel cancer. Send to: Rose Murray, Prisoners' Art, 56 Welbeck Avenue, Southampton SO2 1SS.

Mary Iuvins,  
Annie & co.

@@@@@@

And here's another Annie letter.....

Hi kids,

I was in Norwich watching "Return of the Jedi" and missed all the FUN. A prisoner from Long Lartin was sent to a hostel on Home Leave and instead of going to his penfriend up North who he'd been writing to for ages, or to the hostel as ordered, he came to Warren Road, went swimming and weightlifting with Zeki, and decided to stay the night.

At 9am the next morning, the local law went through next door's house and climbed into my garden, then, synchronising with the use of walkie talkies, attempted to enter.

As I have three morticed locks on my front door and it's all reinforced with iron bars from being kicked down so often, they had no luck with the front door, and as my dogs are not lap dogs, they were stuck at the back too.

P.T.O.

More Annie.....

However, the noise woke up Zeki and his guest, so they rose bleary-eyed, while Zeki went down to chat to the bobbies through the letter box. Adrian (God knows why) climbed out of my top bedroom window and perched on the window sill like a demented pigeon shrieking "Fuck off yer bastards or I'll jump on my head on the concrete!"

Zeki was afraid the dogs might get hurt so he shut them all in one room and went to tell the cops how cross I'd be if they did any damage, then he let them all in. A cop at the front door was walking backwards to get reception on his C.B., but a large burly pair in the kitchen misinterpreted his actions: "Come back here, don't leave us in this mad house!" Zeki heard them say.

Eventually Adrian decided against diving head-first to the concrete and fled-- growling threateningly-- to the back of the house and jumped out of Earl's window-- first floor, onto old bed springs sitting on a bonfire remains (I burn a lot of stuff to retrieve metal-- copper etc.) in the back garden and was pounced on by several brave cops, kicked hard, and dragged off to the meat wagon.

Zeki said they were single-minded to the point where he could have been Doug or even Sutcliffe and they would not have noticed, just charged around ignoring everyone but the fox they were after. Zeki was full of admiration for the way they backed off and took care not to drive Adrian off the front ledge, but horrified at how afraid they were of him. "Mum, I'd just thrashed the guy at weightlifting and there were 15 of them all acting like he was Superman." I said well he told you he was "just a thief" -- their respect might stem from the juicy bits that are added "unofficially" to everybody's criminal record.

I know, it's happened to me. When I was in Holloway, one little git trying to make her reputation will pick a fight deliberately with whoever seems to get most respect from others. One kept on and on and on at me till I had to give her biffings-- so then it went on my record that I was violent! ME who never ever smacks anyone or anything until goaded beyond belief-- or very afraid. I think fear is the greatest motivator of "out of-character" acts.

Luvins, Annie. xxxxxx

Annie & co produce "BREAKOUT!"-- the paper for prisoners-- contact at 14 Warren Road, Leyton, London E10. This is also the address for the "Friends of Doug Wakefield", the prisoner who, until recently, was Britain's longest-serving prisoner in solitary confinement.

~~~~~  
And now for something completely different....
Esoterica Corner: we deny all knowledge of what the following is about.....

ANARCHIST EXPELLED!!!!

In a predicted decision the local Labour Party decided almost unanimously to reject an application from Frances Dennett to join the local Party after the applicant had signed the form saying that they would accept the constitution of the Labour Party.

Well-known Fosterchild and slickbonce Russell Shoestring had, acting on information received, deduced that Frances Dennett is none other than Melita Anarcho. Melita is Political Editor (oh no I'm not!--Tipst) of satirical and libellous publication Poison Pen.

It was also mentioned that Melita had been seen supporting a banner in the May Festival which was critical of Labour's programme on unemployment.

The Party Officers who agreed to the application for membership being considered by the Labour Party were condemned in the strongest terms. However, it was stated that the prospective Labour Party member had attended ward meetings and behaved like any other Parliamentary reformist.

It is likely that the refused person will appeal to Southern Region Labour Party, Ray Buckton, or even John Golding, Labour's National Committee member who said in a press release that he did not care who joined the party unless they wear MILITANT underpants.

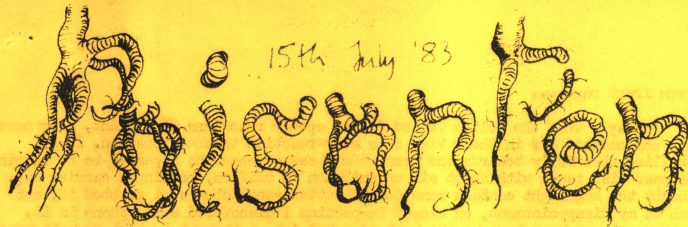
The case continues.....

FROM YOUR REPORTER RAY MERCHANT, Leader of Hastings @ and still a paid up member of the Labour Party.

~~~~~

nuffing to do wiv us, honest!





## Cops Protect Animal Exploiters - 6 Protesters Held Captive For 22 HOURS.

### PART ONE: CROSS BROTHERS OUT!

REGULAR READERS OF THIS ORGAN will have been aware for some time now of the opposition in Hastings to Cross Brothers' Circus for their use of wild animals in the show. Circuses which use animals as an "entertainment" and force them to live and behave in a way contrary to their nature are guilty of gross cruelty and exploitation.

Last Sunday (10th) was the first day of Cross Bros' two-month stint in the Tridome on Hastings Pier. They were greeted by a group of forty to fifty protesters from Hastings, Bexhill and Maidstone, standing on the promenade armed with placards, banners and leaflets to show our disgust and opposition to this sad spectacle.

Although there were only a few of us, it looked as if the police had mobilised for a demo of about three hundred: there were cops strolling all around the vicinity, as well as a police van parked on the Pier and a bus parked opposite in the White Rock Pavilion's side entrance-- and no doubt more were hiding elsewhere.

So there we stood under the watchful gaze of the Guardians of Law and Order, distributing our leaflets and twiddling our thumbs, wondering what we could do. Someone had a megaphone but no-one could agree on what we should broadcast through it. We were a trifle disappointed that there was no queue waiting to enter the circus to appreciate our efforts-- in fact there was hardly anybody on the Pier apart from the good old yobs in blue. Ho-hum. Then someone suggested that we go onto the Pier and stage a protest at the entrance to the circus. So a few of us casually strolled onto the Pier and sauntered up to the entrance. We were joined by an obnoxious character dressed as a clown who brought a young child with him, no doubt to show solidarity with our action, and more of the protesters left the prom to boogie on up and join us, until the entrance to the Tridome was pretty well jam-packed.

Suddenly someone brought out a padlock and chain and there was much pushing and shoving to close the doors of the Tridome. A chant of "CROSS BROTHERS OUT!!!" rose... stink bombs went off.....and AAAARGH!! the circus' deadly weapon was unleashed on us unsuspecting protesters-- a hugely gross wobbly-wobbly weeble type who works for them raised his arms and sprayed us with deadly noxious gases from his armpits and tried to beat us back from the entrance with his equally unpleasant stomach. Apparently the handle to which the chain was intended to have been attached just dropped off, but the blockade of the doorway continued.

After a surprisingly long time the cops arrived in force and dragged or pushed us out of the doorway. From this point on I can only report that which I saw and heard immediately around me, such was the confusion of the melee occurring.

Cont. on next page.....



# Poison Pen

THE ORGAN OF HASTINGS' @'s

» FREE PENCE « FRIDAY 16th SEPT '83

THE ONLY PAPER IN HASTINGS WITH

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ABOUT JANE AMSTAD IN!

STOP THE CITY:-  
TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT!

OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS OR SO a lot of organisation has been going on around the country to make sure that "Stop the City" is a success. A number of people from Hastings have been involved both locally and with the national co-ordination. Things are going well and there now seems little doubt that a large number of people will take part and as an absolute minimum we will be able to cause considerable disruption of traffic throughout the day. Potentially, with sufficient numbers, imagination and will, we can achieve far more than this.

Just in case you haven't yet heard about "Stop the City", the idea is basically this: the City of London is the heart of British capitalism and as such it is the source of finance for the arms industry which is responsible both for deaths and mutilation in wars which are raging now, and for the threat of nuclear war which may one day destroy us all. So, on the 29th of September we are calling on all who oppose this insanity to occupy the City, especially the area around the Stock Exchange, Bank of England and Guildhall, in order to disrupt the functioning of these merchants of death.

The 29th is now less than two weeks away. If you wish to come along on the 29th as part of an organised group which is going up from Hastings, it is vital that you come to our last planning meeting on Sunday 25th September at 3pm (venue yet to be confirmed at time of press-- ask one of the @'s or see next week's ish) or if you can't manage that, then come along to one of the anarchist group's Monday evening meetings in Mr Cherry's pub on the sea front.

If you are not going to be able to make it on the day, then you can still take part in the telephone blockade. On the next page is a list of City firms and institutions involved in the arms trade along with their telephone numbers.

PTO.....

This week:- ummm... errrr... hmmm...  
Oh, read it yerself and find out



And here it is.....

ALL NUMBERS ARE PREFIXED 01-

LYOYDS BANK 626 1500  
NAT WEST BANK 726 1000  
BARCLAYS BANK 626 1567  
MIDLAND BANK 606 9911  
BANK OF ENGLAND 601 4444  
WILLIAM & GLEN'S BANK 623 4356  
BANQUE NATIONAL DE PARIS 626 5678  
BANK OF NEW ZEALAND 248 6401  
TORONTO DOMINION BANK 283 8700  
SCHRODER WAGG 588 4000  
BRITISH OVERSEAS ENGINEERING & CREDIT CO.  
236 6544  
BRITISH ROPES 858 6181  
CHARTER CONSOLIDATED GROUP 353 1545  
C HARTERHOUSE GROUP 248 3999  
INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER 253 8422

MORGAN GRENFELL 588 4545  
HILL SAMUEL 628 8011  
KLEINWORT BENSON 623 8000  
GRIEVESON, GRANT & CO. 606 4433  
SUN ALLIANCE 588 2345  
C OMMERCIAL UNION 283 7500  
ORION INSURANCE 626 4567  
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE 628 8000  
EAGLE STAR 588 1212  
KARDEX SYSTEMS 242 0362/405 3434  
LYOYDS REGISTER OF SHIPPING 709 9166  
FERMOID LTD. 253 5602  
FILGRIM ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENTS 283 8000  
RAILWAY MINE & PLANTATION EQUIPMENT  
606 7000  
SHORROCK SECURITY SYSTEMS 251 0819  
TITANIUM METAL & ALLOYS 628 6141  
have fun!

Phone up and talk to the switchboard operator about what his/her employer does, or ask to speak to managers of departments (e.g. personnel, accounts etc) or union or staff association representatives, or select one number and spend some time phoning it and putting down the receiver as soon as they answer.

We have copies of a research document which has more details of what firms are involved in what, who the directors are and so on, which you can see if you wish.

Those of us who have been involved in helping to organise this event are very excited by it and think it is probably the best thing since....well, since whatever you think was previously the most wonderful thing ever. It may seem ambitious-- and so it is-- but together we can do it and if we do it is going to be one protest which will really shake up those in power and hit them where it hurts: in the pocket. Let's get going.

Steve.

A.D.V.E.R.T.S.

ADVERTS?? who said that??? quick, quick, think of something, damn you! There's

a turd of a page to fill up and nuffink to go in it....oh umm errrr....well let's

get the usual over and done with and start off sensibly and reasonably, none of

this silly gibbering business.....

Hello. I'd just like to tell you in a reasonable manner that Hastings @'s meet every Monday evening at Mr Cherry's boozier along Marina at 9:15. Come along and get a P.P., give us articles, money, beer etc or just for a sociable matter. We'd be ever so frightfully grateful if you could give us one or two or more pennies for your copy of P.P. because it's not exactly cheap to print and give away every time, and well...there are the kids to feed and the mortgage repayments to keep up and the H.P. on the dishwasher and the Jag will need re-taxing soon as well as the servants who keep moaning about being paid in potatoes and empty cartons of soya milk....I'm sorry, this is getting silly again. Cough cough. That's better. Where was I? Oh yes, there's a slide-show and talk in Eastbourne next Thursday (22th) on hunt sabbing and hunting generally. Interested? There should be transport from Hastings so get in touch with us for further details. What else? NOTHING? I? Oh well, P.P. was typed by Si & Melita; printed & published by Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.

#### CUTS NOT CURES.....

You've no doubt heard about the proposed cuts in health service budgets, but the figures don't mean anything till they are applied as real cuts in staffing levels and ultimately the care patients will be getting. In this health district, all departments have been told to make extensive reductions in their spending. Usually the ancillary staff and services - Laundry, Portering and Sterile supplies Dept' - are the first to be affected, and often bear the brunt of the cuts. However since the last round of pay talks and the long dispute last year subtle cuts in personnel have been made often by-passing the usual discussions, between workers and management through the unions. Some people have been given so-called 'Voluntary redundancy' with assurances of excellent references should they be applying for another job, however skills learnt in the Health service very rarely can be duplicated except in further health service employment.

So this time around the cuts will be made in areas which will directly effect the patients - Medical staff, Nursing Staff, Pharmacy, Pathology Lab, X-ray etc - though of course there will be the usual statements from Senior Administrators and the District Management team, claiming that patient care will not suffer. However many Staff Nurses and Doctors that I've spoken to are very worried and feel that it is quite certain that the patients will suffer as a result of reductions in staff, further they feel that they will not be able to guarantee the safety of the patients. A particular area of concern is the staffing on night duty, at present there are around 18 - 20 Nurses on duty at night for the Ten Wards at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, which means that most wards have at least two people on duty if not three, however after the cuts are made there will only be 16 nursing staff on duty maximum. Already there is no nurse permanently on night duty on the Casualty Dept! A few weeks ago a House Surgeon working on the Orthopaedic Dept' was sacked because he neglected to give a young boy an anaesthetic prior to a manipulation of a fracture, anyone who has ever broken a bone will know how painful it is without being moved. That occurrence raises another question, a House Surgeon is a Junior Doctor who is not registered to practice and should be supervised by his Consultant or at least his Registrar, this was apparently not the case in this situation. Where were they on the Golf Course or too busy in private practice?, Your life in their hands etc.....

#### Fishon Foutler.

And while on Medical Matters...

There is a Hastings Group of the Nurses Anti-Vivisection Movement being formed, right now.

Aims of N A V M

We are a Peaceful, non-violent organisation committed to the campaign for the total abolition of Animal Experiments. Our Aim is to educate all members of the Nursing, Medical and Ancillary Professions in the Moral and Ethical issues involved.

They need donations from non - nurses so please give if you can.

If you are a Nurse and would like to join please write to;

NURSES ANTI-VIVISECTION MOVEMENT  
HASTINGS GROUP

c/o 60C, CHURCH ROAD,  
ST LEONARDS ON SEA,  
EAST SUSSEX.

T.N.3.7. 6.E.E.

(Which is also the address for any money etc)

Congrats to the ALF for the raid on a Mink

Farm over the weekend. Apparently there are

still 20 animals still free. FREE ANIMAL

T.U.C. AND TEBBIT

I'm sure our wonderful Union Leaders were extremely pleased to win the vote on whether or not to talk to Tebbit (The Chingford Skinhead). Can't you just imagine old Len Murray lounging around in Whitehall having brotherly discussions with Norm over cocktails, (Did you know Len Murray earns more from the TUC than Tebbit does being an MP). After the 6 or 7 course meals they will know doubt step out into the cold London air to be whisked away to their humble abodes in Rolls Royces. Having had extremely constructive talks, about making it illegal to strike, talk think etc etc.  
Brother Animal.

T.V. Review of sorts.

I was very pleased to read in the Sunday press that Winds Of War, a lengthy series of episodes of the lives of people in the 2nd World War is in fact a total flop, despite the constant plugging for the last three months carried out by the IBA, when will they stop praising war?.....





# POISON PEN PROBLEM PAGE

There has only been one question this week. Any subject and anonymous ones are quite acceptable, so please send your health Problems/questions etc in.

Q.

A lot of health food shops and literature encourage people to take large doses of vitamins and minerals in tablet form, which is supposed to make you more healthy. Is it a good idea to take vitamins this way or can it be harmful.

A.

Firstly, Health food shops in most cases exist only to make profits from someone, so if they promise better health or longevity by taking their products people particularly the elderly can become easy prey to their claims.

In normal healthy people there is no real reason for anybody require supplementary vitamins particularly in the often huge doses sold at extortionate prices in health food stores and many chemists. The taking of some types of vitamins can be dangerous if taken in excess of the bodily requirement.

Vitamins can be divided into two types; Water Soluble and fat soluble. Water Soluble Vits are B group and C, which if in excess of bodily requirement are excreted harmlessly. The fat soluble Vit' are A,D,E, and K, these are stored in the body and if taken in excess can reach toxic levels and become poisonous.

If you take a well balanced diet particularly a vegetarian diet with a great variety of foods you will obtain more than enough vitamins and minerals required for health. Occasionally in specific illnesses vitamins may be prescribed, eg Vit' C for patients with TB, Pyridoxine (Vit B 6) for people taking oral contraceptives. But actual deficiency is virtually unknown in Britain, except in the elderly and young babies but this is rare. si.

## YOUTH FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

Youth for animal Rights now publishes their own magazine - Animals Now-

This is available from YAR

HILLVEIN

Pric 35p inc p&p

CHAFFCOMBE

NR CHARD

SOMERSET T A 20 4 N H

# MILITANT

ODDS + SODS

Your Chance of a Lifetime - prizes, prizes, prizes.

Enter the new MILITANT Truly wonderful Competition.

Your chance to win a years supply of Militant to line your waste bin with, put at the bottom of the Cat Litter, help you sleep etc.

All you have to do is invent a new Slogan, that Militant can use for the next thirty years.

You know the stuff:-

Labour to Power on a Socialist Bicycle.

Expel the Party Vicars, Or is that Wreckers?? Dump the Lavatories etc etc etc.

To enter you need at Least an undergraduate degree in Politics, and a fail application to work at BL.

Send your entry to; Senior Lecturer in Social science, Trotsky House, Stalin Block, Rod Fitch Street, Brighton. Or C/O Sussex University.

Get Well soon, Mike C.J.

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE LOOKING AT YOU

Isn't it nice to know that our wonderful boys in blue are looking after us, except when they take too much interest in you as happened this week, to me.

On Monday night I was walking home along London Road, at around 2.30am, just before the slip road to the Station, an Unlit Police car - no lights at all not even headlights moved from across the road and stopped beside me.

The two gentlemen inside started to ask me questions like who was I where had I been where was I going etc. I initially did not want to tell them but they said they would take me in if I didn't. I gave them my name etc but surprise surprise they did not believe me and wanted ID, this I provided with a Union Card, they were obviously very bored and looked disappointed when I proved who I was. Anyway they let me go, and I got home and crashed out. I must have been asleep about 1/2 Hour when there was a loud knocking at the door, and guess who? the same cops. They said they just wanted to check that the address was correct.

Well I thought that would be that but oh no, the guardians of the state, sorry Law & Order, had more in store, on Tuesday night at 1.00am I had another knock on the door there they were again. They said they wanted to ask some questions and I could answer them here in my flat or at the Station, a brief discussion about my rights ensued, but they seemed rather menacing so I let them in.

It turned out that there had been some milk bottles broken in London Road, and put under the tyres of Cars -- Did I know anything about this etc anyway after what seemed ages they decided to go but said I might hear from them later.

(Not-so) Free Animal.



# THE Fun

The paper that supports itself

Still only Op

FREE

Photocopy and  
Passon!

NOBODY  
DOES IT  
BIGGER

INSIDE YOUR SUPER SOARAWAY FUN!

- ★ Could your daughter really be a merchant banker? p4
- ★ Are underground Offices the answer to Tower Top Blues? p5
- ★ Blowing the World to bits means democracy-Reagan; peace-Andropov
- ★ Starvation, Repression and Mass Murder plus latest fashions p11

NOBODY  
DOES IT  
BETTER

# CARNIVAL IN CITY

From R.U. BOARDSTIFF in 'the City'

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE will be turning the streets in the centre of the 'City' into a carnival, and they want everyone to join in!

## DAY OFF

Those whose work is getting them down may take the whole day off. People

are coming in from outside London to join in. Even dragons are rumoured to be coming. There will be entertainment all day - Street Theatre, Music etc.

## WHY THE CITY

The organisers say it is a festival for peace in the centre of finance for war.

Day of  
Festivities

Planned

for Thurs  
Sept 29



SECRETS OF 'CITY' REVEALED p.3



# Poison Pen



23rd SEPT 1983

## WELLCOME TORTURE LABS RAIDED

LAST SUNDAY (18th September) the South-East Animal Liberation League carried out its first major operation against Wellcome Research Laboratories near Beckenham in Kent.

Part One: Wellcome Foundation Ltd.  
Wellcome is Britain's fourth largest pharmaceutical company and its profits for the year ending 28th August 1982 were £55 million. Legally, the Wellcome Foundation Ltd is a charity set up under the will of Sir Henry Wellcome and the profits are reinvested in the medical research industry.

Wellcome and others who have vested interest in the continuation of this research would like to have us believe that the suffering they cause to animals is somehow justified by benefits to people. This is not the case: most "new" drugs which come on the market now are simply mixtures of already existing drugs and have no new therapeutic effect; indeed, many have serious side-effects. What they do, however (with the connivance of the medical profession), is to boost drug companies' profits.

It has been shown time and time again that research on animals does not prevent dangerous poisons being unleashed on the public in the guise of medicines (the most glaring example, thalidomide, is only the tip of the iceberg). If we humans wish to improve our health, we should look at our lifestyle, our diet and stop polluting the environment; to believe that torturing defenceless animals will help is like some throwback to mediaeval christianity.

Personally I don't believe that people would be justified in using animals for research purposes even if it did help us, especially when you consider that much research is into health problems caused by our own actions such as smoking, alcoholism, drug addiction and meat eating. Wellcome are currently making large profits from a cream which is supposed to suppress genital herpes. How many animals were forcibly infected with this disease during research into this product? People should take responsibility for their own actions.

Continued on page 2.

Despite their respectable facade (all their ads and promotional films are full of shit about what wonderful philanthropists they are), Wellcome are very secretive, as are all those who run prison camps, about what actually goes on within their walls. They refused to debate the ethics of vivisection and they refuse to release figures of the numbers of animals kept, their species or living conditions.

Here is just one example of the sort of research in which they are involved. This is a description taken for the Journal of Psychology 1976 Vol.261 of an experiment funded by the Wellcome Trust:

"Eighteen kittens had one eye sewn up until the age of 5, 6 or 7 weeks. One eye was then cut open and the other stitched up. They were then allowed to survive for 3 to 65 days. After the time of reverse stitching the kittens were subjected to behavioural tests, e.g. their responses to being startled and their ability not to fall off bench tops. They 'appeared blind in virtually all respects'."

#### Part Two: The Raid

The purpose of the raid was threefold: to draw public attention to this vile establishment, to gather information and to disrupt work there.

Almost 200 people took part in the action, including 17 from Hastings and Bexhill. We met at a prearranged point some distance from the labs and divided ourselves into three groups: one to enter the labs, one to cause maximum confusion with flares, fireworks etc, and one to stage a banner protest outside the main gates. As we set off in convoy for the labs I'm sure most of us felt nervous but also excited to be going back to Wellcome to do something positive after the disappointment and frustration of the march in July.

When we arrived there were a couple of cops there but what could they do? Over 100 people leaped from the vans and cars, the fence was cut and we were running across the field towards the labs. Wellcome is a large place consisting of two or three large buildings and many outbuildings, sheds, portacabins etc. We had plenty of time to look around and many still photographs as well as video films were taken; it was surprising how little security there was and how much was open so that you could just walk in. At the time of writing I can't say what the films and photos reveal, but we will keep you informed. Animals spotted for sure included rabbits, dogs, monkeys, sheep and horses.

As we were looking around, two cops eventually turned up and, obviously scared shitless to see so many of us, started to put on their "big man" act-- one bloke they managed to catch on his own was roughed up a bit and handcuffed to a drainpipe. At this point we heard airhorns going off which was the prearranged signal to let us know that the cops were coming in force. We headed up a fire escape ladder for the roof.

Most people managed to get up but about a dozen of us were cut off so we got up onto the roof of another building and as there wasn't much to do up there, we tried a few fire escape doors, one of which opened. A brief look around revealed some interesting looking files and it was at this point that we decided to make off with the swag, especially as we also had photos.

To cut a long story short, we made it over the wall and joined the demonstration at the main gate. Vanload after vanload of cops went in, as well as dog teams and a fire engine. God knows how much it must have cost them, ha ha ha. Soon the vivisectioners started turning up in their smart cars, obviously called away from their Sunday dinners to check things out, ha ha ha, ruined their Sunday. Good. And then vanloads of our arrested comrades started to come out to be greeted with applause, cheers and hand waving.



83 people appeared in court on Monday (others having apparently been released because the cops couldn't deal with the numbers involved) and were all bound over for two years in the sum of £250.

The operation was a great success: £4,000 worth of damage was done, video film and photos were obtained, files were removed and a thorough search had to be made of all buildings and the grounds, no doubt causing much disruption of work. Also many animals will not now be suitable for experimentation as they are no longer sterile. This may mean that they will be destroyed but at least it will be a quick death rather than a long and painful one at the hands of some vivisector.

Animal exploiters beware-- this is only the start.

Snatch Foster.

~~~~~

HASTINGS FILM SOCIETY: "THE ATOMIC CAFE":

Winter's creeping back and it's time for the new season of films at the Film Society yet again. Wednesday's opener was "The Atomic Cafe", a brilliant juxtaposition of late '40s/early '50s American "civil defence" propaganda, newsreel clips and forced training films. No commentary is needed; the films speak strongly for themselves and the message is DISARM OR DIE.

"The Atomic Cafe" is jam-packed with the blackest of humour, from the all-American nuclear family sitting happily in their shelter waiting for the big bang, to the hilarious "duck and cover" advice to schoolkids: when the bomb drops, hide under your desk and it'll all be OK! On the other side of the coin, there is the horrific description of the murder in the electric chair of Ethel Rosenberg who, along with her husband, was held up as a scapegoat for passing on the secrets of the Bomb to the Russians, and the clip of a bombing test on pigs, running around screaming with their guts hanging out.

The film blatantly highlights the ignorance of many of the people who worked on early bomb testing of the effects it would have on them, and the complete lack of care on the part of the authorities, who, one assumes, would not have been totally unaware of the effects the bomb had on its original victims. No doubt the GIs crouching in their foxholes in the desert during testing were regarded just as much as human guinea pigs as were the civilians of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

It's interesting to see just how little government propaganda has changed: we saw the scaremongering about the Communist threat to the American Way of Life; heard how that way of life is the Right Way and the Good Way, and were presented with the list of items we need to keep us going during our ten days in the shelter. Nothing's changed; even the approach to propaganda today is still as unconvincing and unsubtle.

"The Atomic Cafe" should be compulsory viewing for every "Daily Mail" reader and "Protect and Survive" disciple; unfortunately it's preaching to the converted at the moment, but I don't doubt it'll be on Channel 4 some time soon. In the meantime, if you have a chance to see this film, don't miss it!

melita.

-3-

STOP THE
CITY-
YOUR LAST
CHANCE!

FINAL LOCAL PLANNING MEETING THIS SUNDAY

(25th) AT 2pm AT 43 KENILWORTH ROAD.

IF YOU WISH TO TAKE PART IN THIS ACTION

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU ATTEND THE

MEETING. IT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE!

~~~~~



The following notes are transcribed from a diary written by one of our readers when he was busted for dope in India:

PRISON NOTES: NEW DELHI PRISON -- 1980

So, I'll begin. I've just been staring at this notebook since I got it. Like a kid with some new, special toy-- afraid to touch it in case his fingers become clumsy and inadvertently commit some act of destruction. I've been wanting to write-- express myself-- put my thoughts down on paper ever since they locked me up. I've been a prisoner here for three weeks now and acquired this book three days ago.

There! I've started to write at last. No bolt of lightening has descended to take away or destroy these pages and I feel a relief welling up from deep inside my soul. For me, these pages are living things, with feelings and the eternal breath of life and whilst I am held prisoner here, I look upon the opportunity to engrave my thoughts upon them as a special privilege.

I hesitate to write about my first ten days of captivity, so painful was it for me. But I suppose that sooner or later it must be done. But not yet-- not in a forced or artificial manner. I'll just waffle along and let things flow from me through the pen and onto the paper in a natural way. This may not do a lot for the quality of the writing, but it will certainly ease the passage of my sorrow.

Everyone here is always hungry, at least, I am. Food, I sometimes dream about food-- not fancy stuff, just honest-to-goodness filling gunge! Plenty of it. We get half a loaf of white bread each per day and about half a plate of whatever Subji they bring. Once I counted the potatoes-- four small ones each! I gave up bothering after that. Hunger gnaws at one's insides like a thousand frantic rats, all screeching and clawing-- ripping away one's insides-- clamouring for freedom.

Eventually the sharpness of hunger subsides and is replaced by a dull ache, accompanied by copious salivation whenever the unruly mind allows the image of, say, a boiled egg to emerge. Or biscuits! Sweet things of any kind become the panacea for all prison ills. When they are smuggled in there is rejoicing in the inmates' hearts. It's almost possible to see the yearning as a palpable thing-- It's solid. Certainly more real than the mattresses, tables and chairs which we are denied. They don't like you to be comfortable here, that's for sure.

I'm waiting for my half loaf of bread, which I shall plunge into my potato mixture and attempt to satisfy the rats. The cell some fifteen yards by six and a half yards and has six cement blocks that serve as beds. There are anything up to sixteen prisoners at one time-- so most sleep on the floor. I am lucky, I have one of the cement pallets. This ward, they call the cells wards here, is exclusively for foreigners-- non-Indians-- we have French, German, Afghans, Bengali, and of course myself-- British.

Tonight there is a chattering of tongues-- the French to my left, the Afghans at the far end, who cannot control their voices and seem compelled to bellow. The Germans in the middle ground lend a slightly sane air to the night-- they sit quietly and in a civilised manner, playing cards. Everyone is restless as they sit waiting for an illicit cup of chi, brewed on wood carefully hidden when the chief warden searches the ward before he locks the door for the night. Every morning he finds the embers left from the night before-- he literally does a war dance-- his fury is marvellous to behold. He's flummoxed, no matter how well he searches he doesn't find the wood. (I sometimes wonder why we never clean up the ashes. Perhaps it's a way of thumbing our noses at the magistrates, advocates and warders, all those people who in one way or another earn our contempt with their greed and corruption.)

Continued on the next page.....

Prison diary continued.....

Three fans are hung equidistant from each other. The central one turns at a normal, sedate speed. The one nearest me whirls madly, at a magnificent rate of knots-- spurred on by the cankerous hate that festers and grows in establishments like these. The third fan, farthest from my pallet, hangs useless and broken-- dead. As if to remind us that just over the wall lie the condemned-- those unfortunates who must face the hangman's wrath.

I am always so listless. It becomes a permanent state. The lack of diet doesn't help of course, and although I try to exercise every day-- determined not to let my body degenerate-- it creates a greater hunger and as there is no great quantity of food, it starts once again the awful clamouring of the rats and magnifies their howls for freedom.

One of the prisoners was released a few days ago-- he left behind a box of nine wax crayons-- colour! A luxury indeed. Sometime soon I shall attempt a mini mural, I think mountains and a lake, with perhaps a small sailing boat and maybe a fishing hut on the shore-- anything to relieve the dirty off-white of the cell walls.

Whilst I slept, a little stool I had acquired just this morning disappeared; the guy who sleeps opposite me also discovered the disappearance of his table-- now the ward is completely bare. The Indian who took these little luxuries did so, I presume, on the orders of the "Captain". The "Captain" is so called because before he was charged with spring for Pakistan, he was indeed a Captain.

He runs his ward and ours-- although his authority doesn't really extend to our block, he can be fairly formidable. They (the Captain's mob) are "B" class and get tables, chairs, mattresses, television, tea and double rations. We (the motley crew of foreigners) are "C" class and get none of these things.

There are times when I think I could spend my months here in the cage without rancour and other times when I want to beat the walls in a blind fury. It must be the same for everyone who enters this place. Indira Gandhi was once here so I'm told; aaah, these unsmiling walls and dull bars could tell a fine story:

I chew on a piece of stale bread and hold it in my mouth, trying to extract any taste it may hold and contemplate lighting a beedie, but decide against it as I only have a few and opt for another slice. That leaves me a crust, which I must try to save for breakfast.

Humorous thought float unbidden from the hidden depths of my unconscious-- "Ho ho, what a life," says one. Its brother chimes in with "Yes, isn't it jolly?" and soon there is a mad chattering in my head and my mind reels and takes refuge in the dull ache stretched across my forehead. This is preferable to allowing the thought which yells "Freedom" to wake up, otherwise I'll have no peace tonight. I must lie down for five minutes and relax. And yes, I will allow myself the luxury of a beedie; unpalatable by Western standards, they are nevertheless avidly sought after in the cage. Damn, I wasn't thinking and I've eaten my crust-- ah well, c'est la vie!

It seems my potato counting days have not ceased after all. Tonight the authorities really outdid themselves-- ten small potatoes were given to us (twelve men) and on top of this only half an hour was allowed to make a fire, wash, peel and cook them! We placed the potatoes-- uncooked-- outside the cage and left them. A futile gesture perhaps, but a gesture all the same. How they believe grown men can remain healthy on such a diet is beyond me. But then I suppose the name of the game is punishment, not vitamins.

I suspect however that a large portion of our rations goes missing in one way or another. Everyone, right up to the Dept. Supt who is in charge of rations and the worst offender, is so corrupt it's not true.

No writing past three-four days-- very ill and infected foot and court etc--unable.

26th October 1980

Well-- I'm better! My fever has abated and I'm compos mentis as it were. I haven't written anything for a week so I have one or two ideas I really must put down on paper-- all in all it's been an interesting week.....

My visit to court (again!) on the 24th turned, surprisingly, into quite a pleasant day-- I use the word pleasant, you understand, in its most conservative interpretation.  
pto.....



More notes from a prison diary....

So, anyway--there I was on the 24th dreading my jaunt to Old Delhi court--a more corrupt house of justice it would be difficult to find. I'd had a fever for two days and my right foot was infected, so I was not in the best of humours! At 8:30 I was taken to the main gates by the chief warder, an amiable fellow who only has about seven months before he retires. Usually the prisoners are whisked off in a van straight away, but today there was some delay and we did not leave until about 12:30pm. I sat on the grass under a shady tree and relaxed.

It's difficult to find a place to sit in the van and there's always a rush--Indians everywhere, shouting and pushing--sporadic fights break out in the confusion and the guards wade in wielding their batons--rather vicious they are as well, but I must admit that a few hefty thwacks are usually enough to quell any incipient riot.

I was determined this time to have a seat and try and tuck my injured foot out of the way, so in my most regal and blasé manner I made my instructions clear to the guards, all the while motioning to my feet--both heavily bandaged and looking worse than they were. My lack of shoes also must have made them take a slight interest, for, wonder of wonders, I was escorted past the rows of prisoners waiting to be searched and firmly ensconced in the van--wunderful hey? In India, as I've found out to my cost, there are no rules.

Upon arrival at court we were all herded first into one cell, then another and then back to the first cell, all within fifteen minutes and to no apparent purpose. This caused much excitement among the Indians whom I find in the main simple people and much given to twittering and milling about as close to one another as possible if anything out of the ordinary occurs. The inevitable happened of course, and two Sikhs, their hands about one another's throats, fell struggling to the floor. If a fight breaks out in the cells at court the guards don't interfere, for to open the door would be an invitation for the mob to make a belt for it.

Shortly after this little fracas, my name was called out, I was handcuffed to a fellow prisoner and we were searched and led off to appear before a fountain pen with a man attached to it. They call this man the magistrate (actually there are a number of them) and he neither looks at nor hears the prisoners as they shuffle in front of him with their chains clanging out a sorrowful and unmelodious lament. Rather, he gazes intently at his symbol of power as it hovers briefly over the accused's case notes and rapidly sets a date for the next appearance before moving on to more important items such as applications for bail etc.

The two hours we were kept chained and waiting turned out to be no hardship at all. Looking around it dawned on me I was in a sort of vestibule where accused men could meet for a short time with their families. Linked as it were to my fellow inmate, I was forced to meet his family--wife and baby, mother and father etc as well as his numerous buddies--most enlivening!

In the midst of this happening I spotted an unchained and therefore free European. I caught his eye and he came over and offered to buy me a cup of tea and biscuits which were being tantalisingly moved around on trays carried by men constantly singing an age old chant--"Chi chi--chi chi". Needless to say, I wasn't allowed any refreshment; for this privilege an application has to be made to the pen with the man attached, usually a few days beforehand.

Amidst all this hubbub of sporadic movement, shouts of "Chi-chi" and the shuffle of feet on the dusty and very littered floor, the European, a German and an excellent fellow, slipped me a most welcome piece of hash, which I managed to conceal through three more searches all prisoners must submit to before being caged up back at that most sumptuous of residences, the Central Jail, New Delhi.

Last bit on the next page....



I didn't manage a seat in the van on the return journey (sheer torture for my feet!) but was in good spirits and eventually arrived back at 17 triumphantly bearing the German's gift-- sad to say, now consumed, but until today it's been bonshankor (uh??--Typist) all the way and a damn good blow it was as well!

Eyes squeezed tightly shut I send  
a message of love winging through the  
heavens to my lady-- sleep well-- God  
bless.....

[illegible]

If you can't make this Sunday's Stop the City meeting at 43 Kenilworth Road, but you still want to come along, then come to the @ meeting at Mr Cherry's pub, Marina, on Monday at 9:15. You can grab a copy of p.p. from us there, give us all your money, articles etc etc. Don't forget we always require articles, reviews, news, ideas, comment etc for inclusion in P.P. We know you're just bursting with ideas out there in Readerland, so get writing!

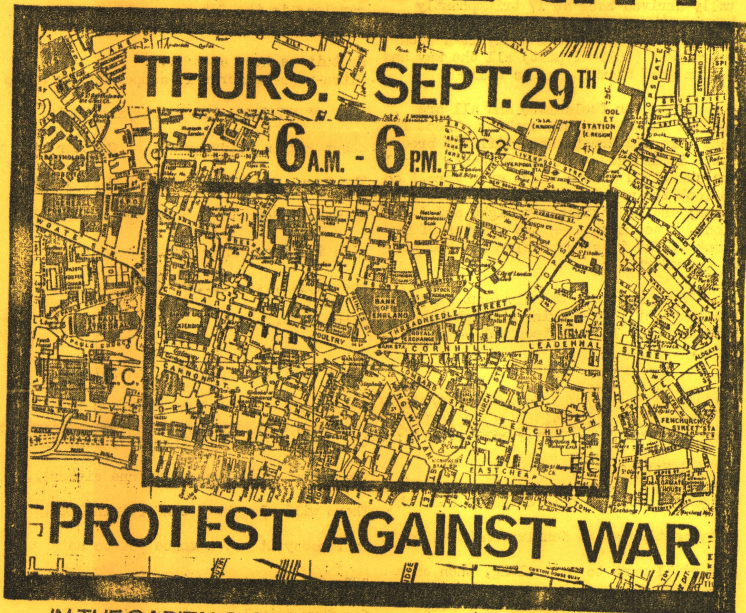
"We, the Hastings Revolutionary Peoples' Movement have your crummy banner. If you can afford £50 to go to the Labour Party for their election expenses, then you can give us a fiver for the return of your

A bit earlier on the 1st, there's an  
Animal Aid Fund Jumble Sale at  
the Blind Centre (we think???) some time  
(we're not sure about this one either)....  
There will also be a fund-raising meal  
on Tuesday 4th at a venue yet to be  
arranged. Sunday 2nd is the national day  
for farm animals and there will be  
leafletting sessions during the weekend  
in the town centre so go along and lend a  
hand if you've got some spare time.

P.P. is printed & published by Hastings  
Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-  
on-Sea, East Sussex.

TOGETHER WE CAN

# STOP 'THE CITY'



IN THE CAPITALS OF THE WORLD, WAR IS BEING PLANNED  
AND FINANCED. IN LONDON, THE BUSINESSES WHICH PROFIT  
FROM THIS ARE CONCENTRATED - IN 'THE CITY'.  
THE ARMS RACE STARTS HERE.....

**Carnival**

- all welcome

- meet from 6a.m. ▶ Tower Hill

local contact:

at: ▶ Finsbury Square

▶ Steps of St. Paul's

☐ Accommodation, crèche, and  
any other enquiries: contact: Stop 'The City', c/o London Greenpeace, 8, Endsleigh St, WC1. ☐







STOP "THE CITY" 29th SEPTEMBER 1983

After four months of planning and organisation, the Stop "The City" action took place last Thursday. All police leave in "The City" was cancelled and it seems that many members of the City force were promoted to sergeant for the day so that they could take charge of others who were drafted in from outside. The night before, van loads of police in riot gear raided the squatted Peace Centre in Rosebery Avenue, Islington, and stole all materials relating to Stop "The City", including personal notebooks. It is believed that there were also raids in other parts of the country.

About 1,500 people took part in the action, converging on "The City" from all over the country in order to cause as much disruption as possible to the financial institutions and capitalist firms which benefit from militarism.

At first people began to gather around the Stock Exchange and in front of the Royal Exchange; by eight o'clock there were about five hundred people in this area and sporadic attempts to block traffic began. From the start it was obvious that the police's main aim was to prevent this from happening. Arrests began to happen as groups of people stepped into the traffic and the police started as they meant to go on, behaving towards people in a very violent manner. Some people started to cross and re-cross zebra crossings in order to halt traffic and the police immediately prevented this by pushing everyone back onto the pavement and only letting people who were obviously not involved in the protest cross.

As more people arrived, the emphasis shifted to blockading the Stock Exchange with hundreds of people sitting on the steps and in front of doors, milling around on the pavement, speaking to people entering the building, giving out leaflets, playing musical instruments etc etc. For about an hour the Stock Exchange was effectively blockaded.

Any account of this action given by one person is bound to be incomplete since there was so much going on in so many different places throughout the day. The whole essence of this action was that it was organised in a decentralised fashion without anyone telling people what to do, where to go etc etc; individuals and groups decided for themselves what was best to do and how to go about it. This lack of central authority and emphasis on self-organisation led to a high degree of spontaneity and flexibility which added greatly to the effectiveness of the action. It was great for once to be involved in a major protest where there were no stewards and where there was no collaboration with the police before, during or after.

At about 10:30 several hundred people moved over to the Guildhall where the election of the Lord Mayor of London was taking place. Needless to say, the place was swarming with police and there was never any chance that we could actually get into the grounds to disrupt the proceedings but they could see and hear us and were made fully aware of the contempt which we feel for them and their fake democracy-- what sort of democracy is it that has to hide behind a wall of uniformed thugs? As people scaled roofs overlooking the square of the Guildhall itself, the police made their first use of horses to push the crowd back. It's terrible to see these lovely animals being abused in this way; they obviously hate it as the police have great difficulty in forcing them into the crowd.

We moved off back down the streets towards the Stock Exchange and now for the first time we effectively stopped traffic and reclaimed the streets. The march of two or three hundred continued until we reached the rear staff entrance to the floor of the Stock Exchange when we surged in and occupied the space in front of it, some people sitting down, others simply standing blocking the way. It was here that the police violence really started-- they charged in with horses and vanloads of them turned up to attack us. Still no traffic moved in the road behind the Stock Exchange and now Threadneedle Street in front was also blocked-- by police vans and buses. After about ten minutes they had cleared us out and arrested about three van loads.

Between 12 and 1:30 two attempts were made to start the proposed carnival but, as I said, the police were determined not to let the flow of traffic be disrupted. I was elsewhere when the first attempt was made but I took part in the second, which I gather was slightly more successful: starting from outside the Royal Exchange, we moved out into the roads, chanting, singing and with instruments.

The police tactic was to split us up into smaller and smaller groups, force us onto the pavements and then herd us off in different directions. It took them about fifteen minutes to do this, during which time traffic was more or less halted.

Now came what seemed to me to be the low point of the day, although do bear in mind that I can only relate my experience and other things would have been going on elsewhere. Once the carnival procession was hopelessly divided, we decided to head back to the space in front of the Royal Exchange which seemed to have become a sort of 'home base'. A lot of others had obviously had the same idea and four or five hundred of us were gathered there when hordes of police turned up and encircled us. The entrances to the tube station were sealed off and no more people could join us. People were only let out of that area in groups of two or three. We were effectively penned in.

It was decided that we would disperse and regroup at the Guildhall at 3 o'clock when a special court had been convened to deal with the first of those arrested. This we did but there was nothing much happening there: a group of about a hundred moved off, followed by police, there was some rather pointless running around and we ended up back outside the Royal Exchange round about 4 o'clock.

Between 4 and 5 o'clock, several attempts were made to block the entrance to the main City clearing bank in Lombard Street. If we could have done this we would have really messed things up for the major banks, probably costing them millions of pounds. It is therefore not surprising that the police, as the dutiful protectors of the capitalist economy, unleashed a furious assault on us at this point. This was the worst violence I saw from the police all day-- horses ridden straight into the crowd, beatings handed out to those arrested (and many were arrested at this point); someone said they saw truncheons used although I didn't.

-3-

Soon after 5 I decided to call it a day and headed for the St Pauls assembly point where I knew I would meet up with friends.

The most accurate figure I have for arrests at the time of writing is 203, most of whom appeared in court either on Thursday or Friday. As far as we know only one person was kept in overnight and that was because he was refusing to co-operate with the police-- not even giving his name. He came up in court on Friday morning when the magistrates remanded him in custody until Monday and made an order for his fingerprints to be taken.

Charges include obstructing the highway, obstructing the police in the execution of their duty, all the usual public order offences, resisting arrest and assaulting police officers. There are also two drunk and disorderly cases, both of whom have entered not guilty pleas; in one case the man concerned was dragged from the pulpit of St Pauls where he was trying to address people about the police repression which was taking place in the City. So much for "freedom of speech". Neither person was drunk and the charges are obviously just a police attempt to demean their protest.

All cases were adjourned until dates ranging from November through till March next year.

As I have said, the police throughout the day were extremely violent: one man had his arm broken, another had a suspected broken arm; one person had their camera smashed in their face and several cameras were broken by the police; a woman was pulled from a wall and had her head smashed against it; a man who was taking photographs was pushed under a police horse and may have been trampled.

In most of the cases where people are being charged with assaulting police officers the complete opposite is the truth: it is they in fact who were assaulted by the police and there is photographic evidence of this, so there should be some interesting trials coming up.

So, how much of a success was the day? The most positive answer to this is: not as successful as the next one is going to be. It is true that we didn't succeed in stopping the City traffic was only slowed down and occasionally stopped,

pto.....



business was not prevented from happening, but considering our numbers, we did very well. Firstly, we did cause disruption although it is difficult to estimate how much. The telephone blockade seems to have had an effect, it was difficult to move around the City and much of what goes on there involves going from building to building, traffic was disrupted-- especially by the bicycle blockade-- and people seemed to be at windows and on balconies throughout the day watching events in the street.

Secondly, we gave all of those who work in the City something to think about: the really powerful people who run it were made aware of our contempt for them, the general office workers were faced with the implications of what their work actually involves and the manual worker (cleaners, transport, catering etc etc), some of whom expressed support for the protest, were hopefully inspired by the sight of what concerted resistance can achieve.

Thirdly, we made the system remove its velvet glove to reveal the iron fist underneath. We showed clearly that it is possible to resist the system which exploits and oppresses us and, even if only for one day, we put them on the defensive.

With three or four thousand I think it would have been really possible to prevent the functioning of the City, not all day perhaps, but at least for a while. Valuable lessons have been learned, for example, 6 o'clock was too early to start, we should stay in smaller more mobile groups more of the time. Meetings are planned to evaluate the action and March 29th 1984 is provisionally set for the next action.

If we are going to oppose this capitalist system of inequality, militarism, environmental destruction etc etc and resist the drift towards nuclear annihilation which is all it offers, then it is this sort of action which we must continue to take, making them bigger and better all the time. As far as I'm concerned, CND as a national organisation has now lost any credibility it ever had: it is nothing but a whimpering pressure group-- "Oh please get rid of the bomb, please, please, oh go on, PLEASE". They did NOTHING to support "Stop the City", nothing at all. They're more interested in another bloody stupid walk through the streets of London. "Where will you be on 22nd October?" I'll tell you where I won't be-- I won't be walking through the streets of London surrounded by cops and CND stewards who might as well be cops, in order to go to some moronic rally to be harangued by Labour Party politicians.

Steve.

#####The leaflet reproduced on the following pages was distributed at STC by "Stockbrokers Against the Bomb".#####

ADVERTS.....

Can anybody help us out? We need fairly urgently either storage space for some papers, furniture etc or some sort of premises we can use as an @ centre. Any of our readers have some ideas about this? Cost is really the criterion-- as cheap as possible-- or even free-- would be ideal. Get in touch with us c/o Hastings Free Press.

Can't think of any exciting up-and-coming events.....does this mean there is none? Oh yes.....at HUCAC on the 27th October, The Compass Theatre Company will be presenting "Damocles" at 7:30...apparently they were very highly rated at the Edinburgh Festival which may or may not mean something.....

Please send/drop in any contributions for P.P. c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Rd., St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. Hastings @s meet every Monday evening at Mr Cherry's watering-hole, 9:15 or so. P.P. was printed & published by Hastings Free Press.

ps South-East Arts Film Tour on Wednesday 7:30 at the College----FREE.



This is the **SHARE**  
that Jack  
bought

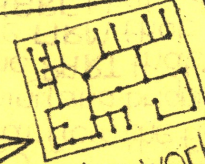


This is the **BROKER**  
who sold the **SHARE**  
that Jack bought

This is the **FIRM**  
that hired the **BROKER**  
who sold the **SHARE**  
that Jack bought

This is the **MAN** who  
works for the **FIRM**  
that hired the **BROKER**  
who sold the **SHARE**  
that Jack bought

This is the **PART** that's made by the **MAN**  
who works for the **FIRM** that hired the  
**BROKER** that sold the **SHARE** that  
Jack bought.



This is the **CIRCUIT**  
containing the **PART**  
that's made by the **MAN**  
who works for the **FIRM** that  
hired the **BROKER** that sold  
the **SHARE** that Jack bought

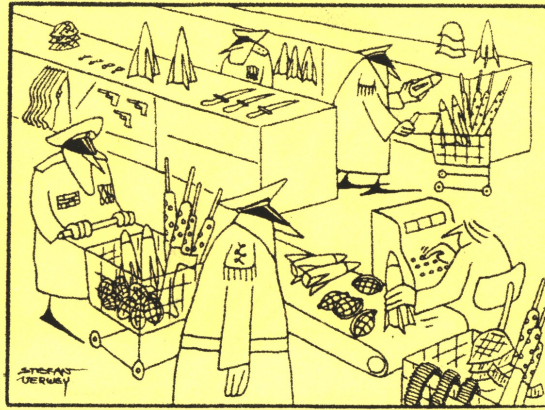
This is the **MISSILE**, all shiny and  
bright, that used the **CIRCUIT**  
containing the **PART** that's made by  
the **MAN** who works for the **FIRM** that  
hired the **BROKER** who sold the **SHARE**  
that Jack bought.



This is the **ARMS FAIR**, so far from  
the fight, that showed off the  
**MISSILE**, all shiny and bright, that  
uses the **CIRCUIT** containing the  
**PART** that's made by the **MAN**  
who works in the **FIRM** that  
hired the **BROKER** who sold the  
**SHARE** that Jack bought.



.. These are the **GENERALS** that went to the **ARMS FAIR**, so far from the fight, that showed off the **MISSILE**, all shiny and bright, that uses the **CIRCUIT** containing the **PART** that's made by the **MAN** who works for the **FIRM** that hired the **BROKER** who sold the **SHARE** that Jack bought



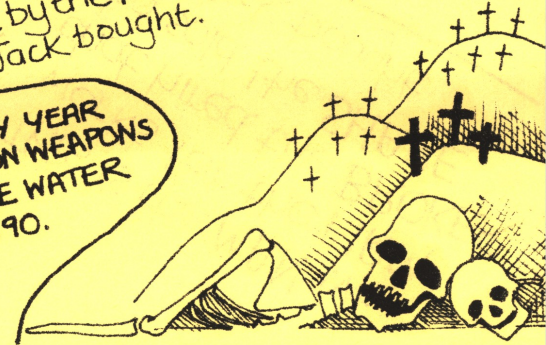
These are the **COUNTRIES**, all forlorn, that have the **WAR** that's planned by the **GENERALS** that went to the **ARMS FAIR**, so far from the fight, that showed off the **MISSILE**, all shiny and bright, that uses the **CIRCUIT** containing the **PART** that's made by the **MAN** who works for the **FIRM** that hired the **BROKER** who sold the **SHARE** that Jack bought.



This is the **WAR** that's planned by the **GENERALS** that went to the **ARMS FAIR**, so far from the fight, that showed off the **MISSILE**, all shiny and bright, that uses the **CIRCUIT** containing the **PART** that's made by the **MAN** who works for the **FIRM** that hired the **BROKER** who sold the **SHARE** that Jack bought.

These are the **PEOPLE** all tattered and torn, who live in the **COUNTRIES** all forlorn that have the **WAR** that's planned by the **GENERALS** that went to the **ARMS FAIR**, so far from the fight, that showed off the **MISSILE**, all shiny and bright, that uses the **CIRCUIT** containing the **PART** that's made by the **MAN** who works for the **FIRM** that hired the **BROKER** who sold the **SHARE** that Jack bought.

30,000 PEOPLE DIE EVERY DAY AND 5,000,000 CHILDREN DIE EVERY YEAR FROM DISEASE CARRIED BY POLLUTED WATER. — THE MONEY SPENT ON WEAPONS DURING 10 DAYS COULD FINANCE THE PROVISION OF PURE WATER FOR EVERYONE IN THE WORLD BY 1990.





# POISON PEN

---

cikigh! we're

5

years  
old!

happy birthday to us

---

- 22nd OCT. 1983 -

---

SPECIAL ECONOMY ISSUE

---



# Food additives - CANCER ON YOUR PLATE

You may remember that a few issues back we gave you a list of food additives ("E" numbers) which are of animal origin, or are suspected of being carcinogenic. We'd now like to extend your knowledge of food additives, and tell you why you should try to eat wholefoods instead of one-third food and two-thirds chemicals!

There are now about three thousand food additives, of which more than two thousand are flavourings. These E-coded numbers also include thirty to forty preservatives, ten to twenty antioxidants (anti-rancidity agents), one hundred and forty or so colourings, along with flavour enhancers, texture changers etc etc. Fhew!

While the American Food and Drug Administration and our own Food Additives and Contaminants Committee do, apparently, keep stringent checks on the chemicals used by manufacturers, they cannot possibly monitor the additives ingested by individuals over long periods of time. They generally use "average" and "extreme" diets as a yardstick for tests. But who can say just what these are?

Also, very little is known about how additives interact with different foods and with each other. When you consider the amount of fizzy drinks, fishfingers, sweets, biscuits etc that kids generally consume, this lack of information becomes quite worrying.

One doctor at a Hampshire hospital has been researching food additives and he has come up with a list of "baddies" which people should try to avoid. These include tartrazine (in some fizzy soft drinks), monosodium glutamate (a flavouring used in many products), sulphur dioxide (in instant coffee) and sodium derivatives which push up the "hidden" quantities of salt in the system which are strongly linked with hypertension. Additives have also been linked with migraine and hyperactivity in children.

This week's Guardian carried a story about a 25-year-old woman who had been consuming large quantities of lemon sherbet. When she was admitted to hospital she was so weak that she could hardly walk, she suffered from giddy spells and headaches and her speech was slurred. Tests showed that her metabolism was out of order-- caused by the vast doses of sodium bicarbonate contained in the kali powder of the sherbet.

Recent research points to a connection between high blood pressure and sodium in the diet and we take in about 20-40% of our total sodium via processed foods.

The Hampshire doctor has said: "I estimate that about 12% of all hospital admissions are somehow connected with allergic reactions to food additives. The problem is intensified by the fact that once you are allergic, the body will react to the substance however little you ingest."

Added to all this confusion is the manufacturers' reluctance to tell us what their products actually contain. For example, do you know what E's 280, 281, 282 and 473 are? Well, neither do I, but I'm assured that they are all animal products and all, or variations of them, can be found in pre-packed bread.

In general, manufacturers use more animal additives than they would like to tell you. For example, Sainsbury's are unable to confirm that the emulsifier used in their "vegetable" cream is always of vegetable origin.

All in all, it seems clear to me that the healthiest way of eating is to stick to wholefoods. Of course, checking labels of convenience foods can always be useful, but it's worthwhile remembering that if people stop buying food with additives, then manufacturers will stop using them.

Continued on back page.



THE VELVET GLOVE:::::

WHAAAT?? Open day at the cop shop?? Not a mass release of prisoners, surely? Well, no, actually it was just a public relations exercise by our brave lads in blue, but it had to be worth a look anyway. I wasn't impressed (fancy that).

I suppose it really shouldn't have been much of surprise, but I was rather taken aback at the number of parents who had attended with their offspring. I couldn't say in the majority of cases who had dragged whom along, but there was quite a sizeable number of very young children, so I rather suspect the parents to be the guilty parties. Well, it was all laid on for the kiddies after all: the dear sweet little brats queued up eagerly to have their pawprints taken, in training for the day when they'll be on every computer from Walthamstow to Washington; horsies were there to be patted (I didn't see any of the doggies we were promised on the poster), cars to be clambered through. There was even an underwater search unit equipped with diving gear-- all Action Man adventure stuff.

There was also video equipment on display....we all know we're on police files, but it's rather disconcerting actually to see oneself on their screen...eek! (Look mum I'm on T.V.....) Displays of the "Tools of the Trade" had been set up-- one assumes these weapons did actually belong to 'criminals' and they hadn't just emerged from the police's lockers. The only way to distinguish between the criminals' weapons and the police's was by the pretty little crests the cops decorate theirs with.

We also saw the armoury of equipment one criminal had amassed in order to commit his crimes: amongst the selection were gloves (gaspi), pliers (oh no!), screwdrivers (good grief!) and even scissors (aaaaghi). If those sort of things are reckoned to be "tools of the trade" then quite a fair proportion of the populace could find that if they fall foul of "The Law", possession of such terrifying implements could be used in evidence against them. Pathetic.

We all know where cops keep their brains, so where else would one expect to find a display of knives than at floor level, eh? Just right for the dear wee bratties to hack their mitts on or fall against. Smart huh? They'd wheeled out all the young and good-looking and the old and benign cops, just to show what a nice bunch they are really. Well it's good to know that we're all being protected by such a dinky bunch of chaps, isn't it girls?

I asked one of the cops when we were going to get a chance to see the cells, but I was assured that they weren't very interesting. Oh no, it wouldn't do for the kiddies to see the real job the cops do, aside from all the Action Man excitement, because the reality of people locked away in concrete cells isn't so palatable.

Hm well, it was something to do on a Saturday afternoon.....

melita.

And more of the similar.....

AN UNFAIR COP

Detective Constable Peter Finch and Detective Constable John Jardine have been found not guilty of attempting to murder Stephen Waldorf. At the time Mr Waldorf was not armed, he was sitting in his (now famous) yellow Mini at a set of traffic lights when three police officers fired fourteen bullets into it, five of which hit him. He was then dragged from the car and smashed round the head several times with a police revolver, because, as one of the police officers put it, "he was still moving".

Still moving after having been hit by five bullets? How provocative-- he obviously deserved a good crack round the head.

From an anarchist point of view, what can be said about this case? We are not surprised by the behaviour of the police: we already know that the police are a gang of armed terrorists employed to protect the interests of the State and the ruling class-- it would....

Continued on next page.....

Food additives from P2....

Just a quick word about the benefits of whole foods:- they have undergone a minimum of processing or none at all and therefore, when fresh, still contain all the nutrients they possessed in their natural state. So, eat brown instead of white bread (or better still, make your own), use brown instead of white flour, brown rice instead of white, and brown sugar instead of refined sugar.

If you want to know more about food additives, then a booklet called "Look at the Label" is available free from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Publications Unit, Lion House, Willowburn Trading Estate, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2PF.

#### Hexachord Fantasy.

~~~~~

Continued from previous page.....

....be surprising if the sort of individuals likely to join such a body did not from time to time indulge their Action Man fantasies in incidents such as this. Nor are we at all surprised that they have got away with it.

What this case does show is that it is not only in Latin America that police "death squads" operate. It is quite obvious that the police were sick and tired of being made to look like idiots by David Martin (who had escaped from their custody, shot one of them and managed to avoid recapture) and had set out deliberately to "finish him off".

If they had not made the mistake they did, David Martin would now be dead rather than serving twenty-five years and all we would have heard in the press was that he had been shot in self-defence.

The "Daily Telegraph" of Thursday 20th October quoted a spokesman for the Police Federation as saying that he was "thrilled to bits" by the verdict. I bet.

Steve.

~~~~~

POISON PEN IS PRINTED AND  
PUBLISHED BY HASTINGS FREE  
PRESS, 92 LONDON ROAD,  
ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA, SUSSEX.

You may have noticed that P.P. is an ultra-miniscule edition this week, and this is mainly coz hardly anything has happened in this necropolis of ours which is worth writing about.....or at least, nowt that we've got to hear about. But

we're sure that loads of you out there have exciting tales you're just busting to let the populace know about eh?? So why not scribble down an article and either send it to us c/o Hastings Free Press, or give it to us at one of our meetings.

Hastings @'s congregate in Mr Cherry's pub on Monday nights at 9:15.

Does anyone have/know of anywhere we could store a bit of furniture for a while urgently?? If you do, please get in touch with us.

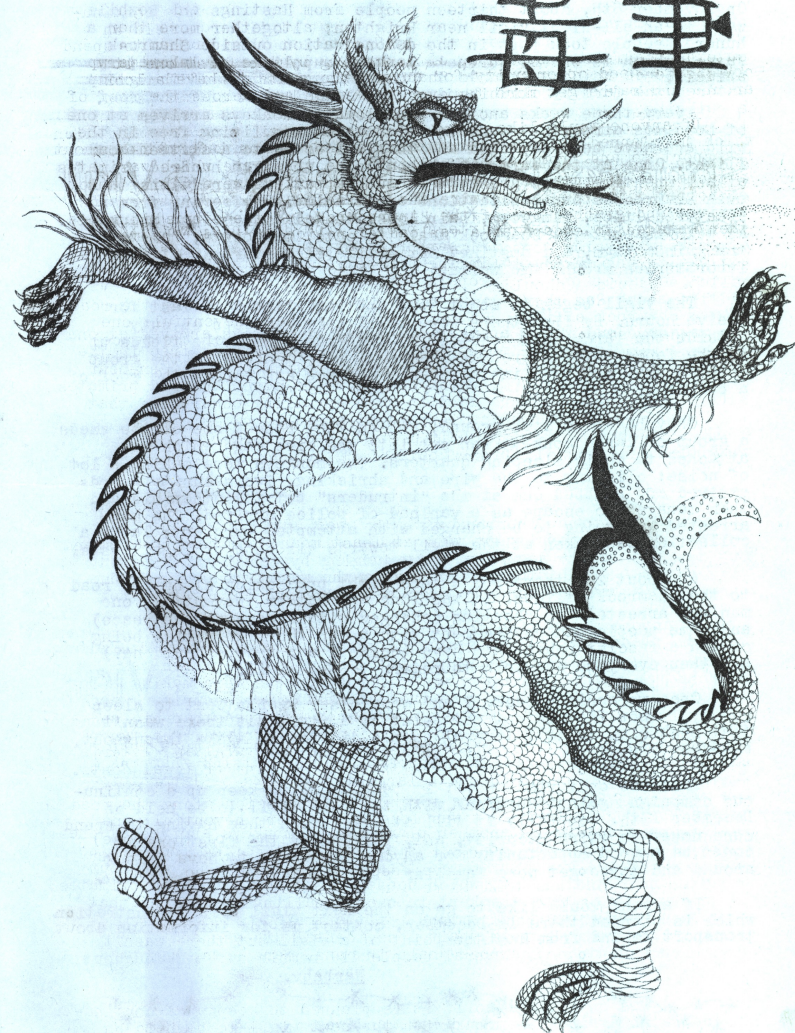
This Thursday, 27th October, the Compass Theatre Co. are presenting "Damocles" at HUCAC. It starts at 7:30 and it's £1 unwaged/£1.50 waged.

STOP THE CITY-- the next action is planned for March 29th... time to start work on it.....

oh smelly bums I can't think what to fill this space up with so I'll just leave it blank and you can write your own bits in....



毒筆



# Shamrock Farm Vigil

On November 5th, about thirteen people from Hastings and Bexhill went to an all-night vigil near Brighton; altogether more than a hundred people took part in the demonstration outside Shamrock Farms, which is one of Europe's largest suppliers of laboratory animals.

Every three weeks another planeload of monkeys arrives at one of London's airports-- monkeys which were once living free in the wild and have been captured and then subjected to a fifteen-hour flight. Once at the Farm, which houses up to seven hundred primates at any one time, they are kept in such appalling conditions that even Shamrock's own publications admit animals suffering from fractured limbs, ringworm, hair loss, dental disease and pneumonia. As well as monkeys, Shamrock deals in cats, marmosets, hamsters and guinea pigs, all destined for a life of torture in vivisection laboratories around the world.

The vigil began at about 9pm, and was planned to last for twelve hours. By 11pm there were still only two cops on duty outside the farm, so a group of us wandered across the fields up to the fence which surrounds Shamrock. Four members of the group entered the farm by climbing over the fence and across the roof of a building.

They began to look around, and as they passed one of the sheds a group of large monkeys ran out into the wire cage which was attached to their sleeping quarters. The monkeys were making a lot of noise: clinging to the wire and shrieking. Two security guards arrived and grabbed one of the "intruders" but the others hid and then managed to escape as a vanload of police arrived. The man arrested was going to be charged with attempted burglary; later a collection was taken at the vigil towards his fine or legal costs.

At about 2am there was a torchlight procession along the road to the Shamrock offices. It was long and rather uneventful: one man was arrested for shouting (charged with breach of the peace) and some people had an argument with a cop who didn't like being called a fascist (shouldn't have become a cop then, should he?) and then everyone was told to return to the vigil.

Once we arrived back, I and many other people went to sleep (yeah, I know that is not the point of a vigil but there wasn't that much else to do). Several people did remain awake throughout, though.

This was only vigil no. 1: it is planned to keep up a continuous campaign against Shamrock, with the next vigil to be held on December 17th. Hopefully it will at least mean them having to spend more money on extra security, and, judging by the first one it could be a good opportunity for anyone who wants to have a look around and maybe get more familiar with the layout of the place.

If anyone would like to go on the next vigil or a demonstration which is planned there in December, contact us for information about transport to and from Hastings.

Warbaby.





- 3 -

An adaptation of 'Circle of poison' by Weir & Schapiro.

In a world of growing food interdependence, we cannot export our hazards and then forget them. There is no refuge from this vicious circle. The mushrooming of chemicals in the Third World is a daily threat to millions there and a growing threat to consumers here. All of us should be allies in a common effort to reduce the production and use of chemicals to a safe level.

1. Dangerous chemicals which may have been banned or strictly controlled in the west are sold to the Third world where they enter air, water and land through farming and factories.

2. This practice is widespread because of under regulation of dangerous substances, corruption, ignorance of the hazards and different environmental conditions.

3. People using the chemicals on the land or in workshops can be poisoned.

4. Some poisons may be absorbed into plants, and eaten by animals destined for local and foreign markets.

5. The water supply can also be contaminated.

6. So local consumers can breathe, eat or drink dangerous chemicals.

7. And the banned substances can come back into the West in food imports and poison us too.

-----  
The other CND Rally.

As reported in the press and on Tv there were on the 22nd Oct about 7 arrests in Hyde Park, charges ranged from threatening words etc to attempted bodily harm. But there was another incident when about 15-20 people were arrested. This event occurred outside the Theatre Of War, a permanent exhibition of murder and stupidity near Whitehall. During the CND march this establishment was playing various taped statements justifying war and gloriously revelling in death. Anyway as the part of the march I was on approached this monstrosity it became clear that quite a few people were becoming quite irate with the people inside and behind police protection, who were dressed as soldiers. All of a sudden people jumped over the barriers and managed a bit of damage to the entrance, later reported as over \$400 worth. This was the highlight of the march.

Hello. You may have been wondering where we'd got to over the past couple of weeks (that is, if you hadn't forgotten about us completely)..... well, to tell you the truth, not very much has happened that is worth writing about. Please excuse a couple of the articles which are a teensy bit out of date. Never mind eh, we're back now.....

# WHO ARE THEY TRYING TO KID??

So: Cruise is finally here and now we can all sleep easier in our beds, safe in the knowledge that our democracy is being preserved from the godless Commie hordes who menace our lives and liberty. It is also a great comfort to learn that our beloved government has devised a computer course to train those who would be in charge should we be nuked.

Reported in last week's "Sunday Times", "Exercise Regenerate" concentrates on the north of England, but no doubt its words of wisdom could be equally applicable elsewhere. For starters, you will find yourself categorised into one of seven groups (unless, of course, you've melted to a puddle on the floor): healthy, ill, sick, dying, and of course dead. Now, the report doesn't actually stipulate what it means by 'healthy', but let's assume that after twenty-eight days in your "Protect and Survive" shelter, you bound out, full of the joys of spring to greet the new clear days. Now you will find that you are further subdivided into two categories: "co-operative" and "criminal". One can only hazard a guess at the fate the authorities would have in store for the latter, which I am sure would be less than pleasant.

So if you're feeling nice and co-operative, why not stroll down to the bank and take some money out? After all, there might be a slight food shortage so prices could rise a little. And there they are, the happy smiling bank clerks at your service. Whaddya mean, your cheque card's melted??

There could be a few problems with electricity supply, but then lighting and heating won't matter because everything will glow in the dark and everyone will be walking around like Ready-Brek adverts.....

Drinking water will be in short supply, but if you put a bucket out when it rains, that should see you through. Those eager little wage slaves are so keen to get back to work that mines will soon be back in production, as will the clothing industry, and farm labourers will be collecting the ready-roasted meat from the fields.

Of all the areas described in the plan, the residents of the Nottingham and Leicester area are the most fortunate: no survivors are anticipated for this region.

All of this gibberish begs the question: does the government honestly believe that a scenario similar to the above would take place in the event of a nuclear attack? If it seriously does, then I fear we have even more to worry about than the present insane situation into which we have been plunged. And if they don't...well, just who are they trying to kid??

melita.

PS "Nice one" to the people who decorated Heseltine with red paint during the week-- what about a blue rinse for Thatcher???

+++f++++

Just a quick ad for a good paper from Oxford-- "Between the Lines", SAE to 66 Divinity Road, Oxford. It's legible, well-produced and interesting....can't say much more than that.



On Thursday 27th October, the Compass Theatre Company presented "Damocles" at H.U.C.A.C. One can only speculate about the reason for the poor turnout for this event-- the horridness of the venue? poor publicity? wintertime apathy? or was everyone just glued to the gogglebox? Anyway, it's a shame more people didn't come because they missed an enjoyable and stimulating evening.

Lighting, costumes, props and scenery were not so much minimal as absent-- there was a square marked on the floor within which all the action took place; all four actors were dressed alike in black combat trousers and white vests and there were two speakers to provide sound effects and music. It is an indication of the quality of both the play and the performance that one never felt that there was anything lacking.

The action begins with three men in a prison cell from which they can watch through a small window as other prisoners are taken out and hanged. Despite their common predicament, the three, instead of supporting each other, display all the worst aspects of stereotypical "male" behaviour: competitive, aggressive, bullying, ganging up on the "weaker" person and so on. From time to time there is an awful noise which reduces all three to a state of uncolttrolled agony writhing on the floor. This is associated with the execution of yet another victim.

Then a fourth person mysteriously arrives on the scene who is unaffected by the noise/executions and who speaks of a journey for which he is preparing himself to the "City of Brothers". He gradually persuades the others that if they choose to, they can also come on this journey and leave their prison cell behind.

The first stage of the journey is to realise their starting point so they describe in detail the cell-- the damp walls, the tiny window, the filthy floor-- and from there they commence on a series of fantasy journeys through a forest, across a desert and over mountains.

Much of this part of the play is performed with music and draws on modern dance and mime traditions which work very well indeed. During these journeys they learn a series of valuable lessons: that they must stick together, that they must help each other, trust each other etc. Each journey is terminated by the reappearance of the noise which had previously reduced them to a state of helplessness, only now they are gradually more able to withstand it.

Eventually they stand before the gates of the "City of Brothers" which is guarded by a huge army of all those who wish to prevent them from attaining it. In a final scene of quite brilliant choreography they defeat this army, yet find themselves back in their cell, the difference being that they are no longer defeated, hopeless and "already dead" as they were at the beginning-- they now know that they "have a choice".

The "message" is simply and entertainingly put over with absolute clarity-- we don't have to accept present conditions: together through collective activity we can overcome them.

Noel Coward.

Let's have some more reviews please: bands, theatre, books etc etc. Send them to us c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards.

THE TRESPASS LAW  
( Coming Soon??)

At present there is no such thing as a law of trespass, a sign saying Trespassers will be prosecuted has not any legal weight. A landowner can insist that you leave his land by the shortest route but cannot take the case to court. You could be prosecuted for criminal damage, and you may be forcibly evicted by the owner or his agent.

However since Micheal Fagan's visit to the Queen's apartments in Buckingham Palace - to bum a fag, there have been various attempts to bring about somekind of law of trespass. At present there is a Private Members bill going through parliament to make prosecution possible, obviously the implications of this go further than Buck house, and until a case actually goes through the courts a finite definition of whom, when and where will not really be known.

si.

-----  
Anti cuts Campaign  
.....  
There will be a March & Rally in Lewes, next Wednesday, organised by Brighton & District Branches of NUPE, NALGO, GHEUTA, NC of M, HVA and Brighton District Labour Party. ( So all those who attend will no doubt have the delight of Rod Fitch Militant - Labour Party Parliamentary Candidate-) Details from Brighton LP Lewes Rd, Brighton.  
: : : : :  
"The health Service is safe with us"  
Thatcher 1982.  
The number of beds in the National Health service fell by 8,000 between May 1979- May 1983. 109 Hospitals Closed and another 39 will close before the end of this year.

:  
: Congratulations to Manchester Univers  
: city for their attack on Heseltine.  
: He made an interesting statement after  
: the meeting about his Governments  
: mass support from the British public.  
: Very odd statement if you remeber that  
: 72% of the population either voted  
: against the Tories or didn't vote,  
: maybe the Tories need a maths lesson. -  
: Self styled MP and Pro-Holocaustist, Ken  
: Warren, voted in Parliament last week  
: against Video Nasties, this may seem a  
: bit strange to some of his employees at  
: his electronics firm. Because according  
: to them, the self confessed politician has  
: arranged for videos to be made of the  
: effectiveness of nuclear destruction  
: when using electronics supplied by his  
: company.  
: Ackroid T. Byte.  
: :  
: -----

Depo-Provera Case  
A woman who was injected with the Contracep-  
tiveD\_P was awarded £3,000 damages against  
North west Regional H A.

RECIPE TIME

Vegan Chocolate; 3oz Tomor Marg, 1oz Coo-  
oa, 5oz fine ground brown sugar.  
Method; Melt marg stir in sugar and coo-  
oa, & beat until smooth. Line dish with  
Grease proof leave to set.



- 7 -

Soya Cheese recipes

Soya Cheese,  
 $3\frac{1}{2}$  ozs Soyaolk or other fine Heat Treated soya flour, Tomer Margarine 4ozs,  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp Barmene or tastex.  
Method.  
Melt marg, stir in soya flour and barmene. Beat until smooth. Then leave to set.

Cheese Snack  
Put slices of 'cheese' on toasted bread and grill until the 'Cheese melts and crisps, Serve with sliced tomatoes and parsley for a well balanced meal.

Cheese Sweethearts  
Put slices of 'cheese' between slices of bread and fry in a vegetable oil until both sides are crisp and the cheese has melted.  
For more recipes and ideas, write to:-  
Vegan Society  
47 Highlands Road,  
Leatherhead,  
Surrey.

---

Health Cuts Latest.

Discussions are presently being conducted, the topic is the closure of the Eye Ward and Eye Department at the Royal East Sussex Hospital. This most savage cut will affect the most vulnerable of people, as most people who attend the Dept' are old and of course many are either blind or have at least impaired sight.

The nearest substitute dept is in Eastbourne, but it is unlikely that they will be able to take the strain of the extra patients from this area.

This news comes in a week when our Representative in Parliament Warren, declared in the local press how wonderful private medicine is. Well if you take Tory ideals as being positive and correct then this is so:-  
Twice as many people suffer complications of anaesthesia in Private hospitals than in NHS.  
The rate of Post-operative infection is (Ironically) increased in private hospitals.

But this boosts the economy, because 1. Patients pay Private Hosp. 2. Patient gets Complications. 3. Patient pays solicitor to sue Hospital. 4. Hospital consults Insurance Company, and so everybody makes money.

---

ADVERTS=====

ANARCHO BOOK FAIR Saturday 26th Nov. 11am-7pm at the Prince Albert, Wharfedale Road, London NI (nr King's X Station).

Cheers to Kes for the front cover pic-- I'm assured it does actually say "Poison Pen" in Chinese....

Hastings @'s meet on Monday nights at Mr Cherry's, 9:15pm.

P.P. is printed & published by Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. Contact P.P. c/o HFP. P.P. was typed by Si & Melita. Please write something for next week's issue or else!!

**POISON »**

**« PEN**

**The Back Page  
IN THIS ISH:**

SHAMROCK FARM VIGIL«

HEALTH SERVICE CUTS«

POST-BOMB BRITAIN«

REVIEW « BITS & BOBS »

All the  
girls love a  
man in a  
uniform



Tell your mate to quit  
hassling me or he'll  
get a boot  
in the  
grain



**18<sup>th</sup>**

NOVEMBER 1983



THE BATTERY EGG SYSTEM  
Some More Facts from Chickens' Lib, 6 Pilling Lane, Skelmanthorpe, Huddersfield, W. Yorks.

Battery cages do not provide seclusion for egg laying. Prof' Konrad Lorenz, the world famous animal behaviourist, has described the frustration experienced by hens who must lay their eggs with no privacy as being the worst torture to which the hen is exposed. He compares the hens reluctance to lay eggs in battery conditions to the instinctive reluctance to defecate in public of humans.

A Leeds Ministry of the Agriculture official, in conversation with Chickens' Lib stated that in her experience the main cause of death in layers at the present time is associated with egg laying problems - internal egg laying is one of these problems.

In 1961 the battery system accounted for 19.3% of British egg production, in 1981 the battery system accounted for 95.8% of British egg production.

In April 1982 the British egg industry wrote to all British MP's & MEP's pointing out the effects which the Council feels could arise from changing the present widely accepted British stocking density for battery hens from five to three birds per 18" x 20" Cage. Apart from the increase in egg price predicted by the Egg Council, their Chairman foresees an increase in aggression in the birds. Their Chairman drew attention to research experiments which have indicated that more cage space could lead to more aggressive behaviour. On December 10th 1981 the editor of poultry world (Battery farmer) stated "Obviously it's a nice idea to give more space but we may be doing the birds a disservice in the process by giving more space for bullying. It is rather like the nice idea of giving them more headroom. There is some evidence that increasing the height of cages increases mortality because the birds scramble over each other". It seems that in agreeing to 500sq. cm. per bird (8" x 10") in Europe, Britain may be risking making the battery hen's life even worse.

The Ministry of Agriculture has been running an experimental aviary house for laying hens at Gleadthorpe, Maresfield, Notts. It has not been a success. The birds have suffered from feather loss, and cannibalism has been widespread. Dr Mandy Hill deputy director of poultry at the experimental farm stated; "The trial still has a long way to go. But so far we do not appear to have overcome problems associated with the old floor system of birds on litter or wire floors. On the evidence of this winter we are a long way from finding a satisfactory alternative to battery cages, either from an industry or a welfare viewpoint." The temperature in the house dropped to an unacceptable level, in the cold weather, and the ammonia levels reached a point where staff objected.

#### THE COMMERCIAL SCENE

Sainsbury's is now selling free range eggs in three of its stores and is looking for further supplies of free range eggs for other branches.

Marks & Spencer is "Very close" to reaching a conclusion as to the feasibility of selling free range eggs.

Many of the battery eggs sold by Marks and Spencers are supplied by Goldenley Eggs. (One of their suppliers is Barradale Farm Tel No 0622 890281).

The two main Societies campaigning for abolition of Battery Egg production are;

CHICKENS' LIB  
6 PILLING LANE,  
SKELMANTHORPE,  
HUDDERSFIELD,  
W. YORKS.

FREE RANGE EGG ASSOCIATION  
39 Maresfield Gardens Hampstead.  
London. NW 3  
Send SAE

This Sunday at 43 Kenilworth Rd: 7.30 pm - Talk on hunt sabotaging (sabotage?).  
Next Stop the City meeting - Sat. 10th: 3 pm at 43 Kenilworth Rd. Next meal: Tues. 13th, 7 pm at 90 Warrior Square (basement).

Where are those questions on health etc that you're dying to ask ????????????

Two questions have come this way, but one may not really be serious.

1. I have an urge to bite June Fabians  
knee caps, am I normal?

**Answer.**

The short answer to this question is NO, obviously you have not acquainted yourself with the great dangers involved in this past time, have you considered the possible infections you could catch and this could be considered a non vegetarian activity. It is an all to common desire to bite the Knee caps of councillors especially Tory ones, but this form of direct action rarely succeeds in disarming these lifeforms, and the risks dont really bare thinking about, but if you wish a form of kamikazi action then this might be an idea. Liberal councillors are however a different story they will do anything to become Magistrates and might take being bitten on the knee as an every day occurrence, (Could this be the real reason Jane Amsteds limping).

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

2. Why do I feel hungry when I'm tired?

Answer.

The opposite of this statement is probably more accurate. Any form of exercise uses up energy. Towards the end of the day our need to metabolise energy for exercise becomes less so that our body reduces the amount of food broken down. As this process occurs so the level of Sugar in our bloodstream falls and so we feel tired. After exercise we may feel the same until our body corrects the imbalance.

si.

[illegible]

This week it becomes legal for men to practice and train as Midwives within the NHS. The reaction to this has been mixed, but as a male nurse who has done an eight week obstetric course I thought able to comment. (And will be interested to hear what others have to say). During my eight weeks I was involved in the care of the mothers and their babies, in OutPatients Clinic, Labour Ward, Ante-natal ward and post-natal wards. I never experienced any antile male feeling and was often welcomed by the Mothers, although there did sometimes seem to be some animosity initially from the fathers'.

AN APPLE EVERY  
EIGHT HOURS WILL  
KEEP 3 DOCTORS  
AWAY.

Keep Healthy by increasing your  
fibre intake.

A reasonable intake of fibre in your diet will help prevent a wide variety of diseases ranging from constipation to bowel cancer.

Yet it is very easy to prevent  
or at least reduce the likeli-  
hood of these illnessess.

By ensuring your intake of fibre is adequate you will go a long way to keeping fit. It is quite easy to do this, all plant mate-

rial - leaves stalks root, fruit  
etc contain fibre. By reducing the  
cooking times involved in preparing  
these foods you will not only  
keep the fibre content intact  
but also the vitamin and mineral  
content will be maintained.

The following will keep your fibre intake high.

- Wholemeal Bread, Biscuits, Cereal
- Fresh Fruit and vegetables.

Useful Addresses  
Hunt Saboteurs Ass'n  
PO Box 19, Tonbridge, Kent.

British Union for the Abolition  
of Vivisection. (BUAV)  
143 Charing Cross, Road  
London.

Beauty Without Cruelty,  
11 Lime Hill Road,  
Tunbridge Wells,  
Kent.



Last week's Poison Pen (26th August) carried an article on plans by British Petroleum to create a huge uranium mine at Roxby Downs, South Australia, on aboriginal land.

On Monday 29th August an action was carried out in London to draw attention to this and show support for the Kokatha people and Anstetlia environmentalists who are currently blockading the proposed site. Sixteen people took part and our target was a B.P. filling station in Swds Cottage. Seven people dressed in a multi-coloured lizard costume (the lizard is an important aboriginal symbol) weaved in and out of cars being served, while two of us blocked the entrance with a large painted banner reading "B.P.-- Hands Off Aboriginal Sacred Sites" and others handed out leaflets to passers-by and explained the action.

Two cops were already at the station (which means that Partizans' phone must have been tapped-- regular practice in the British Police state) and more soon arrived. The diggeredoo played on, and the lizard continued on its way but the forces of law and order insisted that the entrance should become unblocked; since our numbers were small we complied but continued to display the banner prominently for passing motorists.

It goes without saying that the cops were very keen on B.P.'s right to carry on business and make a profit but trying to talk to them about the right of the Kokatha people to live on their traditional land or our right to live in a world not menaced by the nuclear industry was like talking to robots.

It would be easy to say that such an action achieves nothing since it reaches very few people (there was a British journalist present as well as Australian T.V. but of course nothing got in the papers) and it causes B.P. very little inconvenience. However, I think it is important that we do things like this because what's happening over there is something which affects us since the nuclear industry is international and also it is very important that the people on the spot know they have support.

More actions are planned and we'll keep you informed. For more information on this and other matters concerning aboriginal people, contact CIMRA/Partizans, 218 Liverpool Road, London N1 1LE.

Steve,

[illegible]

CROSS BROS CAPERS:::::

Thought ya'd heard the last about those  
animal exploiters extraordinaire, Cross  
Brothers' Circus, eh? WRONG!!!

A swift flashback for those of you with short memories: Cross Bros came to Hastings Pier at the start of July, with the intention of staying until the beginning of September. However, there was a demonstration at the opening performance during which six of us were arrested, kidnapped for twenty-two hours and finally bound over to "keep the peace" for a year.

The protest continued almost daily, attendance at the shows was poor, and, despite constant denials that they were going to leave, Cross Bros eventually called it a day and departed after only a month.

But.....a couple of weeks ago we received an urgent message from a secret underground cell of animal rights activists (???) in Folkestone telling us that Cross Bros were to be doing their thing there for a week. So the good folk at Hastings Free Press knocked us up a few hundred leaflets, and off we buzzed.

. pto.....

More circus capers.....

The circus had a tent set up on an area of the beach owned by one of Folkestone's most despised capitalists, a rotund character called Godden. And there they were, all the happy snarling faces we'd come to know and dislike: the weeble, still looking as ravishing as ever, the gorgeous he-man whose entire vocabulary consists of "I've been in the army" and "motherfuckers"...gosh what a man! Oh yes, they were all there.....with one addition. What a surprise it was to encounter Tory councillor, ex-Pier manager and general smarmy creep Mike Baron there-- acting as their "publicity manager". And how long has this been going on? One's suspicious mind might well ask. If he was acting for them when they were in Hastings, then he kept a very low-- nay, nonexistant-- profile about it. And, one assumes, he was the one who booked them onto the Pier while he was still manager....could there be a connection with the fact that the Pier management decided to waive any charges when the Circus pulled out of town??? Cogs and wheels are whirring.....

Anyway, the Folkestone folk had done a good job in their "anti" campaign before the Circus arrived: some of them had been to most of the shops which were displaying a poster and discussed with the owners the reasons for opposing such spectacles, and had achieved a significant success rate in persuading people to remove the posters. We also saw quite a lot of anti-circus graffiti in town.

We were informed in a polite and courteous way during our afternoon leafletting session that we were on private property, but a check with a local councillor revealed that although the land was leased to Godden, some of it was still a public right of way, so we could do what we liked there.

So we returned in the evening, armed with more leaflets and some placards. I was just innocently standing around on my own, when the curiously camera-shy Baron approached me and threatened to arrest me for giving our leaflets on private property! Oh no it's not, quoth I, we've checked and it's a public right of way. So there, yah boo sucks! Ah, but apparently it's "illegal to give out leaflets".... Oh no it's not, quoth I yet again, "only if you cause an obstruction". Hang on tho'....you cause an obstruction if you "stay in the same place for more than a minute"....getting desperate here, what? So what else could I do but hop from foot to foot in an effort to please him?

Naturally, we remained where we were and continued to distribute the leaflets. Unfortunately, it seemed that most people had bought tickets in advance, and although we discussed the issue and convinced many of them of our point of view, they were loath not to go, having shelled out a tidy whack for tickets.

Still, the protest has continued this week, but I don't actually know at the moment how things are going. It's pretty certain they won't recoup their losses from Hastings though. Good thing too.

melita.

#####

Just room for some ads.....

Thanks to all those who attended the Stop the City fundraising nosh-up on Tuesday. An enlightening experience for the old bowels, what??

Hastings @'s are "at home" at 43 Kenilworth Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, every Tuesday and Friday afternoon, 2-5. Drop in for P.P.s, @ books & papers, wholefoods etc etc. We meet every Monday evening at Mr Cherry's at 9:15.

STC benefit gig - Flux of Pink Indians - Loughborough  
Hotel, Brixton, Thurs. 15th Sept. Latin - American  
Solidarity March - Sun. 11th - Assemble Clerkenwell  
Green 1 pm.

P.P. was typed by Si & Melita; printed & pubbed by Hastings Free Press, 92 London Rd St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. Liber writs to 33 Westminster Crescent please!



FREE.  
POISON PEN.

HASTINGS ANARCHIST WEEKLY.

# BLACKMAN CLINIC

SOME TIME AGO POISON PEN printed an article about the way young women are treated at the Arthur Blackman Clinic with regard to difficulty obtaining the contraceptive pill. Well, here is yet another incident confirming what an 'orrible place it is.

Last year I had a coil (I.U.D.) fitted there-- I already have two young children and did not want another. Prior to this I had been on the Pill for three months but felt continually unwell and also displayed symptoms of pregnancy. This was shrugged aside by my G.P. as hormonal changes brought about by the Pill.

Finally I could stand it no more, had an I.U.D. fitted instead and then miscarried six weeks later-- apparently at least twenty- to twenty-four weeks pregnant. This was a complete shock and a very distressing experience.

At least three doctors failed to diagnose the pregnancy beforehand, including at an internal examination three days prior to the miscarriage. I received totally unsympathetic treatment from the gynecologist at the Buchanan (surprise surprise), which is what most women I know have come to expect from there anyway.

At my return to the Arthur Blackman Clinic to inform them of what had happened, I was told that this could not possibly be the case: "You were not pregnant when I fitted that coil," the woman doctor told me. I replied that I had been and at least sixteen weeks so at the time the coil was fitted, and that I had in fact undergone a short labour and seen the dead baby myself. "Oh no my dear," came the reply. "They're all the same until they're born: just blobs." This insults my intelligence as well as refusing to accept responsibility for what happened, as it was undoubtedly the fitting of the I.U.D. that caused me to miscarry.

Since then I have visited the Clinic three times and each time I have found the attitude of the women staff (nurses and doctors) to be patronising and uncaring. Women attending the Clinic are treated as morons and are frequently told off like naughty schoolgirls for weight-gain etc.

What saddens me most is the lack of support from the women doctors there. We get enough crap from most male doctors, gynecologists etc. It would be wonderful to know that you could go somewhere to get sympathetic help, support and advice. However, these women at the Arthur Blackman Clinic are just as involved in the power-games that a lot of people in the medical profession love to play.

Christina.

Brought to you at great personal risk, well sucked and chewed, retrieved from the cat's jaws, a bulletin from the FRIENDS OF DOUG WAKEFIELD. Until quite recently, Doug was Britain's longest serving prisoner in solitary. Annie Mak-Clifton produces "BREAKOUT!" magazine for prisoners, and she has championed Doug's cause for many years; indeed, she even plans to marry him soon. She writes:

Hello people,

Recently many of us were rejoicing because the Pig in its wisdom had decided five years non-stop solitary confinement ("suspended association") is enough, and they transferred Dougie to another nick and out on the wing.

He got an official notice that he is no longer considered a TOP SECURITY RISK, Special Category 'A' (like Republicans and other political prisoners), but an "ordinary Cat. 'A'", which should mean a relaxation of the heretofore very strict security rules covering visits.

First visit following this transfer was out of this world. We were out of hearing of the screws for the FIRST time in years. Ordinary visit conditions, I even retained my handbag so I could show him unexpected treasures he never expected to see again like perfume. Only one screw in the room, and he behaved normal, to which Doug reacted normal, yet the very next visit it was right back to square one: police matron diving down me drawers looking for guns, feeling round me tits hoping for drugs, handbag confiscated. Five screws on visit, visit on our own in the "S.S.B. visits room".

It's a manifestation of another mutiny by the P.O.A. At Long Lartin a humane governor once ordered Doug out of segregation and the officers took the law into their own hands and banged Dougie up again. Instead of standing by their governor, the Home Office, scared of a P.O.A. strike, transferred him.

New H.O. down to governor, following a great deal of activity and pressure on Doug's behalf during the whole of 1982, is trying to make things easier for Doug. However, every time he comes out of his cell (he is still banged up twenty hours a day) the screws goad him and obviously hope he'll make a protest of some sort so they can ship him back to segregation.

The magistrate, among other things, sentenced Doug to five years extra prison for attempting to murder a screw. Well the five years solitary surely wiped that slate clean? Still they won't leave him in peace, they want their pound of flesh again and again. Last year another convicted killer in another nick was shaking his head sympathetically as regards Doug's treatment, and he said we should not be like the "Idealist Irish" who phone up and take credit for their 'crimes of violence'. He said we should start knocking off screws at random all over the country, especially after mysterious prison deaths.

Trouble is, in spite of all we've seen and suffered, we believe there are 'good' screws though we'd more likely win the pools than find one, but one at Albany once slipped Doug a pack of tobacco out of his own pocket.

Luvins,

Annie.

Contact the Friends of Doug Wakefield and "BREAKOUT!" at 14 Warren Road, London E10.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WATCH OUT! WATCH OUT! THERE'S A DHS SNOOPER ABOUT!**

The Dirty Deeds Department of the DHS have been sending out Fraud Squad spies to check up on people working in pubs where the landlord is a tenant, examining the books, petty cash slips etc. We understand that so far they have visited the Robert de Mortain and the Harrow amongst others, and no doubt they haven't finished yet. It cannot be urged strongly enough if you are doing a fiddle that you should use a false name and address, 'cause employers are only too happy to help the DHS out-- it's no skin off their noses, but you could end up in jail!



REVIEW : THE MEDWAY POETS

Last Friday the Medway Poets performed at H.U.C.A.C. The Medway Poets are four in number and come from the region of Maidstone. They are Bill Lewis, Charles Thompson, Rosemary Rive and Miriam Carney.

Sadly to say the show was a bit like the famous curate's egg-- excellent in places. They seem to be taking themselves slightly too seriously and I think they probably work better in a pub atmosphere or in a combination with groups at gigs, which is how I've always seen them before. They have recently gone professional with a grant from the Arts Council-- could it be that government money is working its usual evil magic? I hope not.

Bill Lewis seemed somewhat nervous, in fact he said he didn't like reading when his wife isn't present, so some of his poems didn't come over as well as they should. And there is no doubt that Bill Lewis is a very powerful poet with a strong individual vision.

The main themes of his poetry are religion and insanity. Having spent time in mental institutions himself, he is well-placed to speak of the violent disregard for the individual inherent in conventional psychiatry. The poem he read at the start of the second half of the performance concerning the fate of a patient in such a place certainly made harrowing and enlightening listening, and to me was by far the strongest point of the evening.

Charles Thompson it seemed to me kept afloat an event which at times looked perilously close to sinking. His poetry is direct, hard-hitting, more explicitly 'political' than the others, and very, very funny. At times he used a small synthesiser as well as reading. Verbal lashings were dished out to, among others, the middle class, religion, education and work. The series of poems on the futility and alienation of work were amongst his best.

Rosemary Rive's poems are short, quirky and, indeed, enigmatic, as for example the one about killing the green sheep. One of her poems which I thought was particularly strong dealt with that feeling of being utterly left out at parties which I'm sure we must all have

felt at some time. She captured it perfectly. One theme that all the poets went into was work, and Rosemary read some witty poems on her time in the catering industry.

I shan't say very much about Miriam Carney because I realise it takes a lot of courage to stand in front of an audience and read your poems so I don't want to be too critical. Her poems didn't interest me at all and I thought her delivery was very weak compared to the others. However, I would be the first to admit that this is completely subjective.

So, all in all well worth 50p and let's hope we see more poets, and theatre groups, performing in Hastings.

Steve.

oooooooooooooooooooo

REVIEW: WHITE RABBITS/GUIT HEROES

Thanks to an organisational cock-up, this gig had been postponed from an earlier date; one of the bands billed pulled out because nobody had bothered to tell them the gig was rescheduled and, combined with the poor advertising and the fact that many people won't go to HUCAC 'cause it's too darn cold, the turnout left something to be desired for these two bands' debut performances.

The White Rabbits comprise MDB on guitar and Sarah on voice, accompanied by a taped backing of drum machine, bass and synth, and they were, quite simply, very good. They played a selection of sloppy '60s/'70s songs which could have sunk into a pit of mush but didn't; also bunged in

for good measure were an original number, and a version of (the original and genuine) Ultravox' "Hiroshima Mon Amour", about which I had some reservation, but they concluded with a terrific rendition of Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit". Great stuff!

Sarah has an excellent voice which does more than justice to the songs, and we were all disgusted to find out that MDB's hair was real (ugh!).....they need to vary the tempo of the songs a bit, but that's the only real criticism. Let's hope future performances are as magical as the first.

And as for the Cult Heroes.....oh dear. They churned out a series of Stones/  
songs  
Modern Lovers/which really got the audience going.....home. Back to the drawing board chaps. Never mind, it can only get better.

The Hob-Hound.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Forthcoming gigs at HUCAC: Cracked Mirror Friday Feb 18th 8pm (£1 waged/50p unwaged);  
Jazz Caverners Friday March 4th 8pm (same price). Hope it's warmer by then.....

The Caverners also do their thing at Mr Cherry's every Tuesday evening--free-- and  
Hastings @'s also meet in there every Sunday evening at 9:15....can't think of anything  
at all exciting that's happening in the forthcoming week.....

WE NEED MONEY! Oh yeah, the usual cry, but it's true. The last few issues have been a  
bit thinner than before 'cause we're so broke: just a 2-sheet issue costs 5p per  
copy to produce. So please donate for your issue-- it's up to you to keep the paper  
going. Send donations, articles, letters etc to us C/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London  
Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

Just a last-minute thought: rumours are rife in certain circles to the effect that good  
old Hastings Council is laying poison in the woods around Summerfields to save them  
the job of gassing the wildlife there later on when the cricket ground is built there.  
Indeed, subsequent enquiries in the area have revealed that dead foxes and badgers  
have been discovered which appear to have met their end without any outward physical  
harm..... if any "sources close to the Council" have any ideas about what's going  
on, please let us know, 'cause it sounds like a bit of a dirty trick. In the meantime,  
if you walk your dog around Summerfields, beware!

And on that note, all that's left to be said is that P.P. is printed & published by  
Hastings Free Press (we wouldn't want to be illegal, unlike some other local papers  
now, would we?).



Free  
Poison Pen. (A)

Produced by Hastings Anarchists

★ THIS WEEK: ★

SMITHFIELD MARKET - ★

★ YUK! ★

JANE AMSTAD -

YUK! ★

CHRISTMAS DINNER -

YUK!

And much more.....

10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
1983

About thirteen Animal Rightists from Hastings and Bexhill travelled up to London to take part in the demonstration against the Royal Smithfield Massacre on December 4th.

The demonstration had been organised by the Vegetarian Society and about five hundred people took part. Because it hadn't been organised by an animal rights society and also because recent demos haven't been very impressive (mostly due to the massive police presence at these demonstrations), I suspected it might just be a quiet, boring demo with only a few animal welfarists taking part; fortunately I was wrong.

Our group joined the demonstration at about 11:00 am. After joining in the chanting and shouting for a while, three of us decided to take a walk inside the building itself. After standing around in the place for a couple of minutes, we were approached by two of the lads in blue who obviously thought we were dangerous terrorists about to blow the place up. Anyway, it was nice of them to escort us back to the road.

Later on, the major incident of the day took place: a sit-down in the middle of the road which made it very difficult for the traffic to pass. It started off with just a handful of demonstrators sitting down, but they were soon joined by more who had run round the end of the barriers on to the road. This inspired more of us to try and join them by removing a section of the barrier, but we were held up by a steward on the other side of it who was trying her best to prevent us from taking part in any action which the upholders of law and order might disapprove of.

But within a few seconds we had broken through and joined those already in the road. There were about seventy of us there at one point and it was then that the chanting was at its loudest and angriest of the day. Gradually though, the fuzz began to remove demonstrators, some of whom were arrested and charged with obstruction.

Looking back on the demo, I'm pleased that I took part; I only wish there were more demonstrations against an industry which murders 4000,000,000 animals every year.

Dale.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

GOOD NEWS SPOT::::: PART TWO-

Workers at the Rolls-Royce aero-engine plant at Hillington, Glasgow, have forced the company to abandon work on components for Trident nuclear missiles. The 3,000-strong workforce blacked work on a stainless steel piping prototype, thus losing Rolls-Royce an order which would have been worth £20 million.

At the end of this financial year, £200 million will be the figure for unpaid rents for Council houses and flats throughout the country. Taken along with the squatting movement, this represents a massive refusal to pay for the basic human need of having a roof over one's head. We particularly salute the people of the London Borough of Lambeth who, despite the fact that there are only 48,000 Council tenants, have withheld a remarkable £13 million— almost as much as the whole of Birmingham, where there are nearly three times as many tenants.

Steve.



**\*\*ANARCHIST BOOKS\*\***

If you would like to know more about the political philosophy and history of Anarchism, here are a few recommended titles; all of them are available from Hastings Anarchist Group-- come along to one of our meetings in Mr Cherry's Pub around 9:15 Monday evenings. Alternatively you could write to Freedom Books, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1, but they will charge you post and packing.

\*\*\*\*\*

"MALATESTA/LIFE & IDEAS" Compiled and edited by Vernon Richards. Published by Freedom Books. Price £2.

Malatesta was an Italian anarchist who lived from 1853 till 1932. For nearly sixty years he was active in the anarchist movement both as an agitator and a propagandist. Half his life was spent in exile and at different times he spent over ten years in prison, mainly awaiting trials at which he was acquitted.

As an activist he has not left behind huge theoretical works but what has been done here is to take extracts from articles he wrote during his life and arrange them by subject matter in order to assemble a remarkably coherent expression of his beliefs.

Subjects covered include: "Anarchist Schools of Thought", "Anarchism and Freedom", "Ends and Means", "Majorities and Minorities", "Reformism", "Organisation", "The Land", "Crime and Punishment", "Property" and "Defence of the Revolution". There is also a good biographical sketch and a discussion of Malatesta's relevance today.

"ANARCHY" Errico Malatesta. Published by Freedom Press. Price 75p.

Malatesta's most famous pamphlet; a good introduction to anarchism.

"FRA CONTRADINI" Errico Malatesta. Published by Bratach Dubh. Price 95p.

This pamphlet takes the form of a dialogue between two Italian peasants, one of whom is putting over the anarchist case, while the other raises all the usual objections. Although written in 1883, this is completely relevant to today-- the arguments don't change.

Jean Weir has made an excellent job of the translation and in places this reminds me of the didactic passages from the book that made Hastings famous: "The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists" by Robert Tressell.

"A.B.C. OF ANARCHISM" Alexander Berkman. Published by Freedom Press. Price £1.50. First published in 1929, this is still one of the best introductions to anarchism available.

Berkman was born in Russia in 1870 and emigrated to America in 1888. In 1892 the steel workers of Pennsylvania were on strike; Andrew Carnegie was the owner of the steel mills but it was his business partner and representative H.C. Frick who was responsible for hiring thugs from the Pinkerton Detective Agency to break the strike. During this attempt eleven unarmed strikers-- including a child of ten-- were killed. On July 22nd 1892 Alexander Berkman unsuccessfully attempted to rid the world of H.C. Frick and for this he was sentenced to twenty-two years' imprisonment, of which he served fourteen.

In 1917 Berkman, along with many other anarchists, was imprisoned for his part in the struggle against conscription. He served two years (seven months in solitary) and on his release he was deported. In December 1919 he arrived in "Soviet" Russia. By 1922, having witnessed the events of Kronstadt, he was completely disillusioned by the Bolshevik betrayal of the revolution and left Russia once again. In 1925 his book "The Bolshevik Myth" was published.

Anarcho books continued.....

Like Malatesta, Alexander Berkman was no dry theorist but rather an active revolutionary and this makes what he has to say even more interesting.

"THE KRONSTADT UPRISING" Ida Mett. Published by Solidarity. Price £1.50.

Describes the uprising of 1921 of workers and sailors against the tyranny of the Bolshevik state. Their demands included fresh elections to the Soviets (councils), freedom of speech and press; the right of assembly, independent unions and peasant organisations, release of all political prisoners and equal rations for all workers. For daring to stand up for these principles they were crushed by the Red Army under the control of Trotsky.

Recommended reading for anyone involved with "Militant" or the SWP or any other of the 57 varieties of Trotskyism.

"MUTINIES: 1917-1920" Dave Lamb. Published by Solidarity. Price 60p.

Excellent examination of a hidden episode of British history. Towards the end of the First World War and immediately after it there were many mutinies among British troops and sailors against poor conditions, delays in demobilisation, the continuation of the war and to forestall attempts to send them to fight against the Russian revolution.

"THE IMPOSSIBILITIES OF SOCIAL DEMOCRACY" Vernon Richards. Published by Freedom Press. Price £1.

Vernon Richards was for a number of years a member of the editorial group of the anarchist paper "Freedom" and this book is a collection of articles published in that paper between 1955 and 1964 when the Labour Party was in power. Taken together they are a devastating attack on State socialism and a clear exposition of the anarchist alternative. Recommended reading for all members or supporters of the Labour Party.

"PROTEST WITHOUT ILLUSIONS" Vernon Richards. Published by Freedom Press. Price £1.95.

A collection of articles, again first published in Freedom, dealing with the first wave of action against nuclear weapons from 1955 to 1964. Contains valuable insights for all involved in the present agitation against 'The Bomb'.

Steve.

+++++

GOOD NEWS SPOT:::Part 3=

Last Sunday (December 4th) a number of animals including a cat and a dog were rescued from a laboratory belonging to the drug company Organon when more than seventy members of the Scottish Action Group for animals broke into their premises on the Newhouse industrial estate near Motherwell.

Steve.



### ANOTHER BLOT ON OUR LANDSCAPE

The spirit of free enterprise still lives! Plus a progressive Council that supports this sort of initiative! Hopefully the Council will approve the development of Coghurst Wood, an area just outside Ore which, up until now, has been "derelict woodland", a wilderness that only a few voyeurs of natural beauty enjoyed.

Now, thanks to this thoughtful enterprise, it could be transformed into a paradise with the erection of 350 log cabins, back to nature with all mod cons for a discerning tourist with a pioneering spirit.

And of course this fits easily into the "1066 Scheme" for Rother and Hastings to encourage our pioneering friends to sample Hastings' hospitality and hopefully to line our host Dick Russell's pocket with lotsa money, sorry, our pockets, as I forgot that he hopes to employ 20 people. That should certainly help unemployment in the area and fingers crossed he could expand! More dull woodland could be rejuvenated.

Conclusion: people don't seem to realise that once this sort of land disappears into money-grabbing hands it never comes back again. In the outlying countryside more and more land disappears and no-one seems to realise the consequences. Hopefully there will be a chance to save the precious woodland at a public meeting called in Three Oaks next week but usually the developers get their way no matter what local opinion is. I always wonder where the animals go when they get their eviction. It's a sobering thought that it's the Year of the Tree. It makes you weep.

### Raymond the Cat

+++++

### THE WRITING ON THE WALL:::

I see in the Liberal Party's piece of hocus-pocus "Focus", that Cllr Jane Amstad "persuaded the Council to clean up flyposting in Hastings centre, and is pressing for regular action to keep our town free from this nuisance."

How thoughtful of her. Unfortunately though, unlike Mrs Amstad, the rest of us do not have two local papers waiting at our every beck and call to print every single word we want the populace to know, so consequently some people resort to flyposting as a means of publicising information. All power to the pasters!

Gratuitous hype spot=====

III.

WAR OF NERVES  
AND THE RHYTHM METHOD (AT)  
WHITE ROCK LOWER HALL // FRIDAY 16th DEC  
- 8pm // £1 -

#### AND NOW THE BAD NEWS:::::

Christmas is coming-- yuck! Every year it's the same: even from before the beginning of December we are subjected to a flood of mindless consumerism, sickening sentimentality and putrid christianity. You can't go shopping down King's Road for fear of loudspeakers blasting out those horrible carols. It's all just too ghastly for words.

But if you think it's tough for human beings, consider the thirteen million turkeys who will be murdered in order to provide the centrepiece of the traditional 'festive' meal. Up to twenty thousand of these poor creatures are reared in one windowless shed; by the time they are ready for slaughter they have little room to move. Many of them have legs and wings broken as they are stuffed into crates for transport. At the slaughterhouse they hang upside-down in leg shackles for up to six minutes before their throats are slit.

Hopefully you have now decided that you will not be eating turkey for Christmas (or any meat ever again for that matter) so here is a delicious recipe for a christmas nut roast.

Steve.

#### Ingredients:

|                                       |                                                      |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 4oz wholemeal breadcrumbs             | $\frac{1}{2}$ red pepper-chopped (optional)          |
| 2oz ground or chopped cashews         | $\frac{1}{2}$ green pepper- chopped "                |
| 2oz ground or chopped sunflower seeds | 1 tsp Barmene or Tastex (or Marmite)                 |
| 2oz ground or chopped hazelnuts       | Hot water to dissolve- about $\frac{1}{2}$ a cupfull |
| 1 medium apple- grated                | $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp fresh-chopped or dried thyme       |
| 1 medium carrot- grated               | $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp fresh chopped or dried rosemary    |
| 1 large onion- finely chopped         | Sea salt & black pepper                              |
| 1 clove garlic- crushed               | $\frac{1}{2}$ pint approx tomato juice               |
| 4oz mushrooms- finely sliced          |                                                      |

#### Method:

Combine breadcrumbs, nuts, grated carrot & apple, herbs & seasoning to taste, in a large mixing bowl.

Saute lightly onion, garlic, mushroom & peppers. Add to above.

Add the diluted Barmene and enough tomato juice to bind and form a fairly moist dropping consistency.

Place in a greased ovenproof dish or a 2lb loaf tin.

Bake at 400 degrees F (200 degrees C) Mark 6, for 45-60 minutes, or until golden brown on top.

Decorate with fresh herbs & slices of tomato, if desired. Serves 4.

@\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Here's a joke for crassmas from "Verbal Assault" mag::

Q. Why do Special Branch always go around in threes?

A. One to read, one to write, and one to keep an eye on the two intellectuals. Ho-ho! argh here's another one:

Q. What's the difference between a hedgehog and a police car?

A. A hedgehog's got prickles on the outside! Tee-hee!!

Right. See you on Friday at the White Rock. Have a tolerable crassmas.



# Poison Pen

30th December 1983

1984:

BIG SISTER  
IS WATCHING  
YOU

---

THIS ISSUE :

WAR AND THE MEDIA

SHAMROCK FARMS VIGIL

BOXING DAY HUNT — AND MORE

#### THE DAY BEFORE: A SORT OF REVIEW

It would be easy to say that a film as bad as "The Day After" is simply not worth reviewing any more than it would be worth reviewing any other American T.V. movie or soap opera. However, here is a film which deals with an issue which is, to say the least, one of the most important of our times; a film which was watched by some fifteen million British viewers; a film, the screening of which was blown up into a "Big Thing" by the politicians and other media personalities who are in a position to control and manipulate the agenda of public debate.

Hence it is worth saying something about it and also about one or two other things which it brings to mind.

Is it really necessary to go on about how bad it was as a film? The best thing that could be said for it on that score is that we were spared the full four hours of the original American version. It is obscene, it insults our intelligence and it insults our humanity to make a film which deals with one of our deepest fears and reduces it to the level of "Dallas" or one of those ridiculous disaster movies like "Earthquake" or "Towering Inferno". Before the bomb is actually dropped we are treated to a nauseating little advertisement for the wonders of the American way of life: all is prosperity, racial and marital harmony, tolerance, respect for authority, dedication to duty and good clean family fun-- and the stars and stripes is hoisted outside the house of our all-American heroes. After all that I was quite pleased to see them nuked.

The only other thing I want to say about the content of the film is that it was completely inaccurate: it seriously underplayed the effects of the sort of nuclear exchange it was supposed to portray. As I understood the plot (such as it was) not only had a considerable number of nuclear devices been detonated in Europe, but both superpowers had fired more or less their full contingent of ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles). According to the latest scientific opinion, under such circumstances the action of the film would simply not have existed since so much debris would have been thrown up into the atmosphere that the earth would have been plunged into permanent darkness and sub-arctic temperatures for perhaps as long as one year.

In the film we see the medical authorities heroically battling against the odds to provide some sort of service, however rudimentary. This is nonsense: after the sort of nuclear exchange the film envisages there simply would be no organised medical service whatever. The BMA (British Medical Association) have estimated that one medium-sized device exploded over central London would overwhelm the entire NHS. Yet "The Day After" is supposed to show the effects of the explosion of dozens or hundreds of the largest weapons.

The people who made this film seem to be under the impression that radiation sickness consists of mild rashes and slight hair loss-- have they read the classic eye-witness account "Hiroshima" by John Hersey? Did they watch any of the film available? The film simply becomes laughable when our hero returns to Kansas City, which has been hit by at least two huge nuclear devices, and actually manages to identify his old home-- under such circumstances Kansas City would have been a crater, a hole in the ground, nothing else.

Most people I speak to agree with me that the film was utter rubbish but some have put forward the argument that it is a good thing because it has "shaken people up", "made them think", "got them talking about it" and so on. In a way it is hard to disagree with this but I wonder what sort of long-term effect it will have on people's way of thinking, let alone way of behaving. After all, people always talk about what was on T.V.-- a constant stream which reduces even the occasional serious piece of work to a passing topic of conversation soon to be replaced by the next.

P.T.O.



The page after the last.....

And while we're talking about the nature of T.V. it seems to me that it is rather unrealistic to expect a medium like T.V. (which is inherently authoritarian and encourages people to be passive consumers) to persuade people to get active and resist militarism. And make no mistake: active resistance is needed now, not some sort of vague realisation that atom bombs are nasty, which seems to me the attitude most likely to be engendered by this film.

Why do I say that T.V. is "inherently authoritarian and encourages people to be passive consumers"? I say this because it is controlled by a few rich and powerful people or by a state bureaucracy and the vast majority of us have no say in its content and no access to the technology of its production. Just like high technology weaponry, in fact.

T.V. is a one-way process where a tiny minority beam out their ideas and values while the rest of the population sit and watch without any way of answering back. It is like being lectured at by a teacher or a boss or a politician. That is why it is authoritarian and to that extent it (and films like the one under discussion) are part of the problem rather than any conceivable part of a solution. Yes, I know that you can switch it off, same as you can not vote if you wish, but these are purely negative choices which don't in themselves affect anything.

It is interesting to note that some capitalist T.V. company can make this film, get it shown and make a large profit out of it while much newsreel film of the Nagasaki atrocity is still suppressed by the U.S. government and cannot be shown. It should also be borne in mind that a percentage of the profits will go to the American war machine through taxation.

It is also interesting that the film-makers chose to show a full-scale exchange of nuclear weapons which produces a situation where both superpowers and Europe are overnight reduced to sub-Third World conditions. This encourages the idea which is put forward by both sides in the nuclear debate that nuclear war is a global catastrophe which would be of no advantage to anyone and which "responsible leaders" cannot allow to happen. CND, Labour and Tory politicians, defence experts and commentators alike always seem to talk as if any use of nuclear weapons is by definition THE END OF THE WORLD.

This is by no means necessarily the case: nuclear weapons have already been used (they killed at Hiroshima and Nagasaki; the tests during the '40s and '50s have killed tens of thousands, and the so-called Civil nuclear programme has also probably killed thousands) and I do not think it is unlikely that we will see them used again during our lifetime in a limited nuclear war in Europe.

People always talk about the sheer size and unimaginable power of present-day nuclear weapons but what does not get talked about so often is that there are many types of nuclear weapons far smaller than the ones used against the Japanese.

There are atomic shells which can be fired from tanks or from bazookas and there is the neutron bomb which destroys people but not property. In the past, economic crises (slack production, unemployment) have led to war and war has solved those economic crises for the ruling class. Imagine a brief war in Europe including the use of some of the weapons mentioned above and some re-drawing of national boundaries with the USSR advancing to take, say for example, West Germany.

The economy of Europe would be shattered, but not perhaps more than it was after the Second World War. This would provide enormous markets for the industrial economies of both superpowers, and native capitalists would also benefit from the work of rebuilding. Does this sound far-fetched? But isn't it exactly what happened after the last war?

Concluded on next page.....

.....  
Anyway, in a sense such speculation is beside the point. For the time being we are still living in the day before rather than the day after so what shall we do? If we are to make nuclear (or "conventional") war impossible then we must get rid of the system which produces it: the system of exploitation, authority, inequality, compulsion, alienation and militarism which dominates every inch of this planet, no matter what colour the flag flying overhead.

Active resistance against the war machine is vital now-- this can take many forms. We need more blockades of bases, more actions against army careers information offices and we need to link this struggle with workplace struggles: if workers strike against or sabotage war production, this is the severest blow the state's plans for war can be dealt.

We need more actions like "Stop the City" and there is going to be another one on March 29th.

We should also look at our own lives: it was suggested to me the other day that if all members of CND (which is a very middle-class organisation) were to voluntarily (their income level to one at which they paid no tax, this would have more effect than any number of marches through London. I say this only in order to stimulate thought and debate.

In short, what we need is a social revolution against capitalism and the state which will proceed to build a society based on individual freedom and collective responsibility, production for need, direct democracy, concern for our environment and an end to national boundaries.

In even shorter, we need anarchy.

Steve.

~~~~~

CHRISTMAS FUN AT HERON HOUSE:::::

Good old DHSS! You can always rely on them to make the maximum effort to ensure that life is as miserable as possible for claimants. As usual, the staff at Heron House had decorated their part of the building up to the proverbial eyeballs, leaving the claimants' area as grim as ever.

So in we breezed, season of goodwill and all that sort of thing, armed with cakes, biccies, crisps, false noses etc.

As with last Christmas's party, at first the claimants were somewhat bemused by this unexpected pouring forth of cheer in such a place, but they (and we) were soon tucking into the nosh and I reckon it brightened up a bit a miserable afternoon.

Same time, same place next year....

A. Winnit

~~~~~

And now for yet another annual event.....

#### KILLERS ON THE LOOSE:::::

Well, tell me...what's the high spot of Christmas for some people? Opening the pressies? Eating corpses? Booze (yes! yes!) no....why, 'tis the ritual slaughter of innocent creatures in the name of sport. Yes, the jolly old Boxing Day hunt.

As usual, coachloads of supporters had turned out to revel in the spectacle of the killers in their pretty outfits atop their horses. Apparently we were "morons" for daring to protest, or even "youths"! Good grief, surely not!! And why weren't we "in Oxford Street fighting the IRA?" Good question-- hand-to-hand combat with an explosive litter bin sure sounds like more fun than slithering around the countryside trying to spoil these people's innocent fun.

Anyway, they didn't get anything-- well, foxes that is-- except poor Walnut who ended up having an early bath when one of the terrier men doused her in a delicately fragrant solution of garlic and antimate. No broken noses though.....

Apparently one victim of the Boxing Day hunt in another part of the country was a pet cat. Appalling yes-- but then so is the slaughter of foxes in the name of tradition and sport. It just baffles me how people can turn out on Boxing Day to cheer the hunters and not realise fully just what they are supporting. But then again, some people voted at the last election didn't they.....

melita.



Shamrock Farms, near Brighton, are notorious for their sales of animals to labs around the country. The Farms are now the site of a series of vigils in protest against their sickening trade:

#### SHAMROCK FARMS BECOME A POLICE STATE

When our group of ten people from Hastings and Bexhill arrived at Shamrock Farms at about 8.30pm, we could see no demonstrators but there was a huge amount of police. My first thoughts on seeing this were that we were not going to be allowed to stay the night outside the Farms. Fortunately the police didn't go as far as that in their actions against us; what they were actually doing was stopping any protesters from parking their vehicles anywhere near Shamrock Farms.

After the minibus had been parked, we walked back to the grass bank outside the Farms, where the vigil was being held. When about fifteen minutes had passed and about forty people had gathered, four of us put up the sign and posters informing anyone passing why the vigil was being held, although not before a conversation with a cop had taken place.

From what he told us it would seem that the edge of the public highway finished fifty yards up the bank, therefore for us to put a sign in the middle of a public highway (halfway up a muddy, grassy bank) we needed permission from the Council. Fortunately a police Inspector had previously told a demonstrator that we could put the sign up, otherwise we probably wouldn't have been allowed to.

Within three hours or so our numbers had swelled to about a hundred and forty, which was an increase of about twenty on the first all-night vigil against Shamrock Farms.

The weather wasn't too cold during the night, which was lucky seeing as the fuzz weren't allowing us any fires or braziers to keep us warm. One small group of demonstrators wanted to warm themselves up a bit though so they lit a very small fire, but crime is crime, so along came a big, brave shitehead of a copper, stamped out the fire and then took the names and addresses of the "criminals" concerned, who weren't any older than fifteen or sixteen.

At one point it started to rain quite hard, so several of us lay down and covered ourselves with a plastic sheet, but it wasn't long before a copper informed us that we were committing an offence: something to do with sleeping out in the open at night, which is obviously a very dangerous crime that needed to be dealt with firmly. One of the other protesters happened to be lying nearer the road than the rest of us, so with no warning at all a policeman grabbed hold of him and dragged him to another position. I expect the nice police officer thought the demonstrator would be more comfortable if he moved.

Cont'd on next page.....

Shamrock vigil continued.....

At about 3 o'clock most of us walked down to Shamrock Farms' offices. As soon as we got there we were told by the police that if we didn't go straight back to the vigil we would all be arrested. We all stayed there for a couple of minutes, but the bastards started pushing us around so we slowly moved back to the Farms. All the way back the shithes'ds were pushing us about, but no-one retaliated and as far as I know there were no arrests during the whole of the all-night vigil.

At about 7 o'clock the weather got very cold, so our group got into the minibus and pissed off home.

The reason that I've written this report is not because of what the vigil was actually about— that wouldn't have taken very long— but to show what annoying bastards the police made of themselves. If they think that by behaving in that way they're going to put us off going on all-night vigils or any other anti-vivisection protest, then they've very much underestimated our dedication to our cause.

Dale.

(( ))(( ))(( ))((shit))(( ))(( ))(( ))(( ))(( ))(( ))

RITS & BOBS.....

Nice to hear that Thatcher's promised us a year of liberty in 1984: we'll be free to be oppressed, free to lower our standards of living, free to be nuked... the list is endless. Gee, isn't it wonderful to live in a free country??

Congrats to Chris & Carl who've had a visitation from the stork.....

And as usual.... Hastings @'s meet every

Monday evening at 9:15 at Mr Cherry's pub.....pop along for a chat or to pick up a P.P.

You can get in contact with us c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex-- send us articles, letters, used fivers etc.

We've still got our wholefood co-op going, but at the moment it's situated at London Road. If anybody fancies making a purchase, get in touch and we'll make arrangements accordingly.

Congrats are in order to the people who engraved the windows of Philpots in protest, one assumes, at their sale of fur. According to the Hastings News, a cool £1,500 worth of damage was done. Fab!

Anybody got any idea about some cheap or free premises going which we could use?

We're a bit lumbered at the moment, so any help or useful info would be most gratefully accepted.

Hopeful hype spot: Anyone require a rather spiffing band to play benefit gigs anywhere eh?? Yeah, course you do.....get in touch with melita and wonderful things could happen.....

Last bit then.....Polson Pen is Printed & Published by Hastings Free Press.

Happy 1984 everybody!

Nuclear - FREE

2072





# POISON PEN

BRITAIN'S ONLY WEEKLY ANARCHIST PAPER-- CHURNED OUT BY HASTINGS ANARCHIST GROUP

FREE

OR QUITE CHEAP-- PRINTED & PUBBED BY HASTINGS PRESS, 92 London rd. St Leonards, Sx.

## ORE VOTERS GIVE JACK COOK THE THUMBS-DOWN

LOCAL  
ERECTION  
LONDON

REMEMBER WHERE YOU  
READ IT FIRST!

Yes, we have to report that our hero Jack Cook came a resounding third out of three candidates in his attempt to stick his finger back into the pie of local politics. Which is a bit of a disappointment to us, as we were looking forward in a perverse way to seeing this elder statesman back in action on the council, but obviously a modicum of good sense prevailed amongst the voters of his Ore ward in not electing him to represent his-- I'm sorry-- their interests.

Which must cause a huge sigh of relief to rise amongst certain quarters of the local Liberal party, who would have been very embarrassed, had they had to share a platform with a man they dislike so intensely. Rumours are rife that Cookie had strongly considered retiring from politics, should his SDP bandwagon-jumping attempt fail, so this could mean that this election was the last we'll ever see of him.

But pause a minute to pity the poor voters of Ore. Just look at the choice of candidates they had: Ian Sier (more about him later), the Labour candidate, won; Tory Heather "I smell a rat" Elrick, the sitting candidate who was known as.....well, something of an eccentric, to say the least, and of course the Cook himself. What a choice! Regular readers of this august publication will know of the reservations we have about Ian Sier: he is a member of Rother District Council, who are renowned for housing families in squalid conditions, thanks to his help, and he is also concerned with evictions. But what a hypocrite! During the day he is earning his money kicking people out of their houses, then in the evenings.....he works for Shelter!

Ah-- but rumours are now vibrating very heavily through the grapevine to the effect that Sier could well get the boot from Rother D.C. for being "too soft", and also because we keep mentioning in P.P. that he works for Shelter, which apparently is something he is not supposed to do. So there.

Apart from Cookie getting the result he deserved, there aren't any particularly exciting results to emerge from the election. At the time of going to press not all the results had been released, but from what we know so far, Hollington has voted for the loathsome Ray Marchant (Lab), another of our heroes, who polled almost twice as many votes as the equally vile SDP Argentine candidate Alicia Jolly (see last week's Jack Cook Times for what we think of her). In fact, judging by the results we have to hand, the SDP have fared quite badly.

Labour stalwart Michael Foster was thrashed in Ashdown; despised Tory Thornton was overthrown by a good margin by a Liberal in Braybrooke; and we are pleased to report that Liberal Osman, who has been overheard making the most derogatory remarks about the unemployed, has also been overthrown.

Meet the new master-- same as the old.

melita.

To all those of you who wanted other sorts of info in the "Guide to Your Rights" section, I'm afraid you'll just have to bear with us during this series of your rights and the police-- there are lots of different subjects on their way. Anyway, even if this series is of no immediate use to you, it does serve very well to illustrate how little one can do in the hands of the boys in blue. We shall proceed, nonetheless....

#### THE POISON PEN GUIDE TO YOUR RIGHTS (Part ummm...errrr...thingy)

Last week we dealt with making an official complaint against the police. And now.....

#### Who will investigate your complaint?:-

The chief officer of your area has to register your complaint and have it investigated by a senior police officer. Although this officer does not have to be from another force, he quite often is; otherwise the Home Secretary has the power to direct the chief officer to call in an investigating officer from another area.

The investigating officer will contact you for an interview. You should ask for the interview to take place in the presence of a witness at your home or somewhere else, e.g. a solicitor's office, rather than at the police station. This will most likely make you feel a lot more comfortable. A surreptitious tape recorder might not come amiss either!

When you make your statement, make sure the final written version details accurately what you said and explains your complaint properly. Check that the most important points are properly emphasised. If you are not satisfied, ask for it to be changed before you sign it. Ask for a copy of the statement. You probably won't get one unless you ask for it, and it might be tricky to obtain one later on.

If there are any witnesses to the incident about which you are complaining, give their names and addresses to the officer, so they can be interviewed too. Make sure they also have a copy of their statements. You'll find the odds pretty well stacked against you all the way, so it's best to make sure you do your utmost to keep on top of things.

When the investigating officer has finished interviewing you, your witnesses, the police officer(s) in question, old Uncle Tom Cobbley and all, he will draw up a report for the chief officer. If this report shows that the police officer may have committed a criminal offence, it will go to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who will either decide to prosecute, or will return the report to the chief officer. If the report does not go to the DPP, or if the DPP takes no action, it is up to the chief officer whether or not to bring disciplinary charges.

#### Disciplinary hearings:-

If the chief officer decides to bring disciplinary charges, or is directed by the Police Complaints Board so to do, the charges will usually be dealt with at a private disciplinary hearing. However, in exceptional circumstances, the board can decide that the charges will be heard by a special tribunal. No-one is sure what "exceptional circumstances" are, but a case of special public interest should merit a tribunal hearing.

The tribunal will consist of a chairman (usually the chief officer of the force to which the policeman belongs) and two members of the board. A two-to-one decision either way will finish the case. Punishment will be decided by the chief officer of the force, after consultation with the other members of the tribunal.



Most cases are heard by the chief officer of the policeman's force, without any members of the Police Complaints Board being present. If the chief officer is a witness or has a special interest in the case, then it will be heard by the chief officer of a different force. However, the punishment is always decided by the chief officer of the policeman's own force.

You should be there at the disciplinary hearing, though you might be excluded when confidential matters are discussed. You can bring a friend, but not a solicitor or any other professional representative (doesn't exactly work in your favour, does it?), and the same applies to the pig.

You will be informed if your complaint is upheld, but you will not be told what the disciplinary measures will be taken. If your complaint is substantiated, but trivial, then you will be given an apology. The NCCL Handbook says this happens all too rarely, and if more apologies were given, there would be less suspicion surrounding police investigation of complaints.

#### Complaints in court:-

The NCCL Handbook reckons that magistrates in criminal courts don't take complaints against the police very seriously in general. They either refuse to listen altogether or tend to disbelieve the complaints. However, you should make a complaint in court if you feel it is necessary and don't get put off. If more people made complaints in court, the Handbook says, then magistrates would pay more heed to them. If you have been charged with a criminal offence, you should seek legal advice before complaining, as outlined last week.

#### Complaints to MPs and the press:-

It might well be worth contacting your MP and/or local paper to publicize your complaint. Although it is very unlikely that an MP or journalist could do anything to help your case, you may well derive some satisfaction from the resultant publicity which could well embarrass the police quite a bit. But beware of defamation cos they're quite rich and could sue you for libel! (That word again!)

Well that's about it in this mammoth section on your rights and the police. Next week I'll dip into some other aspect of your rights (or, more usually, your non-rights). Thank to the National Council for Civil Liberties Handbook, which has provided all the info for this series. It's published by Penguin and costs a couple of quid or so, but it's worth that for the 600-plus pages of info on just about every aspect of the law.

As far as I know, anything even remotely resembling an NCCL branch here in Hastings has long since ceased to exist, but the national address is:-

NCCL,  
186 Kings Cross Road,  
LONDON WC1.

I hope this series has been/will be of use to some of you, and we'll bring you more soon. How about drug offences? Yeah, ok we'll do that next week. I 'spect that's of interest to quite a few of you, innit? See you then.....

....melita.....

The following is a report of a march held in Brighton over last weekend:::

LEFT-WING BULLY BOYS

On May 1st there was a "Right to Work" march from Shoreham to Brighton. In Brighton the march was joined by a small group of local anarchists. We began distributing our leaflets which gave a reasoned criticism of the Right to Work Campaign. We were immediately set upon by several SWP members, some of whom we recognised as students at the university. These "revolutionaries" told the police we were disrupting the march, and the police dragged us off and told us that any more "disruption" would get us arrested.

Later there was another march, organised by the Labour Party, through Brighton. WE were ordered to the back of the march by the police, then furious SWP members demanded to no avail that we stop chanting our slogans such as "Bombs not jobs".

This march ended with a rally at the Brighton Centre. The first speaker was Alan Sapper, TUC President, TV Technicians Union leader and Soviet apologist. An anarchist comrade from Worthing interrupted and asked Sapper how he could claim to speak for British workers when he supported the suppression of Polish

workers. He was immediately seized round the neck and punched in the back by a Labour party organiser who is a university lecturer. The assailants were restrained and the audience were divided in their reactions to the incident. We left, and some of us returned later and spoke to Sapper after the meeting; he claimed that Russian policy had nothing to do with Poland. We also spoke to the lecturer, and he claimed that he had thought our comrade was a fascist.

In conclusion, the day showed us the following:

- i) The nature of much of the Left is thuggish intolerance. They prefer regimentation to debate, and when their rituals are marred, don't hesitate either in asking the police for help against us, or in trying to beat dissent out of us themselves.
- ii) In this area, at least, the Left does not act as a channel for popular discontent, as its active support is composed almost entirely of university students and lecturers, with a sprinkling of professionals, ex-students and elderly working-class Labour loyalists. Therefore, making a presence at these Left rituals has a limited value for us.

A. Narkoe.



Perhaps our comrade from Brighton who related his experiences on the previous page with the Left might be interested to compare notes with us on the not dissimilar treatment we received from our good friend Jack Cook's bully-boys at the SDP meeting a couple of weeks ago. Perhaps Cookie picked up a tip or two on how to handle political opponents during his time in the Labour party???? Our spies inform us that Cookie was seen canvassing in his Ore ward accompanied by two heavies lurking in proximity to his hallowed person, should harm be inflicted upon it. What is this creature so scared of?????

Well, while we all ponder this question, let's have an advert:-----

**"ON YER BIKE" RETURNS!!**  
 (THE COVENT GARDEN COMMUNITY THEATRE CO.)  
 IF YOU MISSED 'EM THE FIRST TIME, DON'T BE A DUMMY  
 AGAIN

JOKES.....SILLINESS.....BONDAGE.....ALBANIAN RED KEM?.....SLAPSTICK.....FUN&FUN&FUN

AND IT'S ALL IN AID OF HASTINGS UNEMPLOYED & CLAIMANTS ADVICE CENTRE

**AT THE TOWN CRIER** UPSTAIRS ROOM—  
 OPPOSITE CLASSIC CINEMA  
 >> 7:30 p.m. <<  
 £1 FOR YOU TWO WAGED PEOPLE OR 50p FOR THE UNWAGED AND FERRETS  
 OVER THERE  
**THIS MONDAY** 10<sup>th</sup> MAY  
 COME EARLY-- LIMITED SEATING

And for those of you who are "on yer bike" looking for a job, you might well be suffering the same problems as our next contributor.....

#### APPLYING FOR A JOB-- BE ON FORM

I am sure there are many unemployed people like myself who are pissed off with being asked to fill in forms when applying for a job. Some of the questions asked are nothing short of an intrusion into the private lives of the applicants.

Even for piddly jobs like washing up part-time, employers sometimes want to know, as the saying goes, the inside of a duck's arse.

For instance, are you divorced? or what your maiden name was if you are married. As far as I'm concerned it's none of their damn business. They can find out all that is necessary about prospective employees without the use of forms anyway, and they very often want references for part-time jobs that pay about £1 an hour, and ask the reason why you left your last two jobs. (Cont. P.6)

I have spoken to several people who say how fed up they are with it. In the end it is up to us to let these employers know how we feel. If you are presented with one of these forms, refuse to complete it, and tell the offenders what they can do with their job, or fill it in in a way that they will wish they hadn't given it to you.

Apart from the fact that you won't be liable for a fine for not completing one, these forms are in the same mould as Register of Electors and Census forms. To hell with them.

F. Delot.

0000000000000000

#### FAMILY PLANNING:::::

Those of you who read the past two issues of P.P. will have read the criticisms of the Battle Road Family Planning Clinic for its unsympathetic and unhelpful attitude and downright nosiness, which have caused quite a lot of dissatisfaction for its clients.

Hastings Women's Group has therefore decided to draw up a questionnaire for women who attend the clinic to gauge the level of this dissatisfaction. Many women have complained to the Group about their treatment at the clinic, and we would be interested to hear from any more of you who feel you have not been treated as well as you might at this clinic. After the questionnaires have been completed, we hope to publicise our findings in the local press and put pressure on the place to change its ways.

If anyone requires any further info, contact Judy at Hastings Unemployed Centre, tel Hastings 428375. The next meeting of Hastings Women's Group is next Wednesday at the Centre at 10:30a.m.

And in the meantime, it seems that if you're going to go in for contraception, you'd best steer clear of the Battle Rd Clinic.

Ms

((((( @ )))))

#### SICK JOKE OF THE WEEK:-

It's probably something of a first for Poison Pen to include a reprint from the Guardian, but the following may have escaped the attention of most of our readers. And I promise you it's the only time we'll mention that wretched F-lkl-nd -sl-nd cr-s-s!

From the Guardian Diary, Thurs May 6: 'By appalling coincidence yesterday's Daily Mail carried a recruiting advertisement for the Royal Navy which featured a line drawing of HMS Sheffield under the headline: "We always throw our technicians in at the deep end."

'The advertisement, which has now been withdrawn by the Ministry of Defence, also includes the line "Having thrown you in at the deep end we'd expect you to swim."

'The MoD had a number of complaints about the advertisement yesterday and promptly scrapped plans to carry it in national newspapers today. "Obviously we believe it is in bad taste to advertise for new recruits when people are being killed," said a spokesman. By way of explanation he added that the adverts had been drawn up two weeks ago. Which is an odd sort of explanation when you think that the fleet set sail about a month ago.'

Did someone know something the rest of us didn't??



looks like...smells like...must be...Page seven

And no issue of P.P. is complete without a tale of the Hastings Observer's latest journalistic triumph.....

#### OBSERVER TRASH STRIKES AGAIN

We didn't think they could do it but yes-- the Observer has sunk to the pit of their depravity once again. They are now out to ruin another man's life by billing him as the drunken driver who paralysed his friend in an alcohol-caused accident.

What actually happened was that the man, a doctor at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, was driving home when a car (strange that a cop car was the only car near) failed to dip its headlights and the doctor, who wears glasses, became blinded and drove into the railings in St Helens Road.

The leeches in the Observer immediately caught on that he had been out with a few friends and made out he was drunk when in fact it had already been proved that he wasn't.

Isn't it bad enough for him to live with the fact that he has crippled someone without the Observer rag homing in? From what it says in the Hastings equivalent to the "Excess" it sounds as if his so-called friends have deserted him.

So piss off Observer and pick on somebody your own size and stop kicking a man when he's down.

The Centre's still open isn't it? Peps.

(((((@))))))

yes.

#### POISON PEN DISTRIBUTION:::

Now we are lacking in a shop premises, our distribution network is not quite functioning at the super-hyper-mega-ultra-wonderfully efficient level it was before (cough cough), so apologies to those of you who are having trouble in getting P.P. regularly. However, we have to thank W.H. Smith's for providing a rack of free papers outside their town centre shop so that we can leave P.P. in there. This open-minded helpfulness seems to be a reversal of Smith's previous policy of refusing to stock anything stronger in content than "Woman's Own", so we cannot thank them too much.

Otherwise keep an eye open for the info rack in the public library for your P.P.; rabid anarchists have also been spotted in French's drinking emporium so stop them and buy one. Otherwise either Steve or I wander into the Centre most days so you might bump into one of us there. Sorry if you're having trouble getting it regularly.

melita.

Page ate....and thanks to a new reader for the following contribution-- I only hope I've typed it all correctly (well, as correctly as I usually type, which isn't very) 'cause it's very hard to read the typing on the original....but here goes.....

#### RATING ANGER

"People payeth their taxes in sorrow and their rates in anger" is an old adage attributed to Samuel Johnson. The first Elizabethan age was finished over over one hundred years before the great man was born and local rates were already established as one of those proverbial sad stories! It may be said that the whole sorry rating system is due to the sexual proclivities of good Queen Bess's father. When the redoubtable Henry VIII sequestered the assets of "the church", that confiscation finished the traditional role of the religious of providing all aspects of community care from hospices to almshouses. The consequent deprivation of the poor was the harsh factor that motivated the parliament of Queen Elizabeth to commence the rating system in order to fund these basic community services. Soon four hundred years will have passed and the rating system just gets worse!

Once more the system is being investigated and debated. Theoretically the Conservatives are in favour of the abolition of the rates. So too is Labour according to their environment spokesman Gerald Kaufman. "Me too" says David Owen for the Social Democrats. The Liberals, somewhat mutedly, have consistently advocated site-value rating. The specialist body concerned, the Rating and Valuation Association's "Whitstable Report" demonstrated how home owners would pay less rates under a system of site-value rating, yet producing an adequate level of rating income for local government to fund necessary services. Ironically history shows how this favoured method was widely implemented throughout the British Colonies and large elements of the system survive to this day in cities varying from Johannesburg in South Africa to Wellington in New Zealand. Unfortunately this, the obvious system, was never implemented in the mother country.

Site-value rating means simply what it says. Rates ought to be levied on the unimproved value of land. Why should anyone who creditably renovates a property be punished in perpetuity by paying higher rates? Conversely, a neighbour who allows another property to deteriorate is, under our present crazy system, actually "awarded" a reduction in rates. Whilst there is an obvious need for yet more investigation, please let it not be by Whitehall mandarins, and not by lawyers nor valuers who so innocently and effectively transform a method which ordinary people find simple in principle, to a veritable witch doctor's paradise.

In terms of the nature of the society in which one lives it is essential for local government to remain stable. Clearly there has to be genuine stability in the method of financing local government itself.

Michael J. Monk.

#####

#### POISON PEN RECYCLING SCHEME:::

What do you do with your P.P. when you've finished reading it? If you don't save it for posterity, do you just chuck it away? Well don't! Join in the super-duper new P.P. recycling scheme. With just a small effort you can help us dump the Good News on the masses and give many more people the chance to see this wonderful organ. How? Simple. Just leave it lying around in a pub, on a bus, in a doctor's or dentist's waiting room-- anywhere it will get to be seen by someone. We're having enough trouble with distribution at the moment, so you can help us spread it round (they go down a treat at SDP meetings) and know you're doing your bit towards the cause. Doesn't take much effort so please help us.





AN INTRODUCTION TO

# CHIRPY CHUCKLING

We don't often include reprints from other papers in P.P. but the following is definitely worth making known to a wider public. It is stolen from Worthing @ Group's "LUDD & SWING" periodical, and although some of the references in it are peculiar to Worthing, they can equally be adapted to circumstances in any town.

## Recommended chuckling procedure

Address an office window and stare at those within until noticed. Should you feel that the response of those within merits a Chuckle, start Chuckling. A chant of "You are the robots" may also accompany this.

If one or more persons within your scope of Chuckling opens a window and addresses you, your reaction is limited to a strict "The Chuckle's on you!" Then resume Chuckling. (Any other verbal reference to Chirpy Chuckling is permissible if essential.)

During a Chirpy Chuckle it is always possible that the police may arrive. If this happens, depending upon the situation, the recommended procedure is to run away. This may, though, on occasion, prove to be unwise or impossible, in which case it is advised to maintain Chuckling until such time as it seems admissible to cease doing so, whilst still maintaining the honour and integrity of Chirpy Chuckling.

## Recommended conduct of arrested Chirpy Chuckler

Should the police try to arrest you, it is up to the individual Chuckler to decide whether he or she wishes to try to evade arrest or not, though you should bear in mind that it is looked upon highly if you let yourself be arrested.

When physically seized by the arresting police officers, it is always the sign of a good Chuckler if he/she carries on Chuckling in a cheerful hearty manner; indeed, it is good protocol for Chuckling to be escalated at the immediate point of arrest by both arrested Chuckler and fellow Chucklers alike, then for the fellow Chucklers to Chuckle enthusiastically as the arrested Chuckler is dragged away. (It is vital that no attempt is made to rescue the arrested Chuckler).

Once in the police station, relatively normal patterns of communication are permitted. Whether or not you wish to co-operate with the police is entirely up to you. However, when it comes to writing a statement, the contents should basically consist of the following: "HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA-- the Chuckle's on you- HA, HA, HA," etc etc. It is always the mark of a true Chuckler if a statement of this sort is written. From thereonin, stay Chirpy, and Chuckly as and when you regard a situation. "Game for a Chuckle."


Eric Shone.

Worthing's Chucklers are fortunate in that they have many office windows and even a Town Hall window through which they can perform their art, whereas we in Hastings do not. However, the procedure can easily be followed for shops, political meetings (Jack Cook is a fan), schoolteachers, councillors etc etc and any nasty people you may meet in the street (just wait 'til we bump into Cookie one day!). So get Chuckling!

hm...errr...thanks to all those who have contributed to this week's organ and keep  
 those reders polls coming in. We've received about 50 back so far-- I 'spect we'll  
 have a report on the state of play next week.

Drop in for advice and a cheap cuppa; all sorts of courses coming up, e.g. electrical home appliance maintenance course, which runs for four days from Mon 17th May-20th.

Take any old newspapers in 'cause they've got one of those machines which squash up  
mushy papers into bricks for burning. Good fun to make 'em too, if you like mud pies.....

And isn't the very lovely Ray Reardon doing wonderfully in the Snooker?? (by the time you read this he'll probably have lost, but never mind). 

JUMBLE SALE IN AID OF HASTINGS WOMEN'S GROUP WILL BE HELD AT THE UNEMPLOYED CENTRE TOMORROW (sat.). LOTS OF BARGAINS-- NEARLY NEW-- ALL SORTS OF GOODIES. ENTRANCE 5p. DOORS OPEN 2p.m. BE THERE OR MISS OUT

LYNDA IVE: Don't forget you owe the Centre that money you said you'd come back in 5 minutes and give them and if you turn up ear'oling from us before you get your dole money you'll get short shrift so just pay up ok?

Now let us return to the matter in hand. Well We're always asking for money but it never seems to get through so one more try can't do any harm. **HELP! WE NEED MONEY!**

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:** we told you before but you probably didn't take any notice. Sainsbury's are still accepting money-off coupons on any products. If you spend a quid or so you can usually get away with using more than one coupon per item, but they won't accept more than 3 of the same coupon at a time. If you scour mags and papers for coupons, you can knock anywhere between a quarter to a third off your food bills. Can't be bad.

Thankx to Erik the Legendary Nameless one for printing; i was responsible for typing  
errrrrrrrrrrrrrsssss blah blah blah well i'm going away to watch the snooker. Come on  
Ray you cuddly little beastie..... ♥♥♥♥

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN POISON PEN ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE P.P. COLLECTIVE, HASTINGS ANARCHIST GROUP OR HASTINGS FREE PRESS. ANY ARTICLES ARE WELCOME FOR PUBLICATION; WE DO NOT CENSOR ARTICLES, NOR DO WE HAVE AN EDITOR (potential users take note). CONTACT US VIA HASTINGS FREE PRESS, 92 LONDON ROAD, ST LEONARDS-ON-SEA, SUSSEX.



# ★ Poison Pen. (A)

produced by the nameless  
Anarchist Horde in Hastings

A message for all those  
dissatisfied with the  
state of British politics.

**Cheap**

## Don't miss out.

**this  
week**

CONSUMER RIGHTS/JACK COOK FINDS A  
GOOD USE FOR HIS OLD ELECTION CARDS!/MAIL  
ORDER FREEBIES/NEWS, REVIEWS, GIBBER,  
WHAT'S ON ETC ETC ETC -

PRINTED + PUBBED BY HASTINGS FREE  
PRESS.

**Even the bananas are oppressed**

?!?!?!?



compete with people - all people  
subject!

PIC BY ANDY - MR.

Well I thought I'd write about the following because we've received an article about unsolicited goods, so here's another instalment in our occasional series of.....

#### THE POISON PEN GUIDE TO YOUR RIGHTS

##### THIS WEEK: CONSUMER RIGHTS

#### Trades Description Acts 1968 & 1972:-

It is a contravention of the Act when traders:

- i) falsely indicate that goods are cheaper than they are actually selling them for;
- ii) falsely describe goods, eg. their size, quality, purpose, age, place of manufacture;
- iii) give a false description of the service they provide, e.g. about accommodation or facilities at a holiday resort. However, this only applies to a description which was untrue at the time it was made, and cannot apply to a description of something which will be supplied in the future.

If you have any complaints, get in touch with the local authority trading standards department.

#### Sales of goods:-

The Acts covering the sale of goods contain conditions called 'implied terms', which, if any of them is broken, means the contract is cancelled and you can get your money back. They are:-

i) That the seller has the right to sell whatever it is you're buying, and that no-one else is going to come along and claim it back from you without your having any redress against the seller;

ii) that the goods meet the descriptions they have been given. This applies to private deals as well as sales through traders.

iii) that the goods should not be broken and/or they should work properly, unless any defects have been brought to your attention before you bought the goods, or if you did examine them beforehand, that there were defects which you should have noticed.

iv) that the goods are fit for the purpose for which they were bought, i.e., they do what they are supposed to.

Shops which have signs up saying "No money refunded" or "No goods exchanged" have to refund your money if you demand it for faulty goods. However, they are not compelled to provide a replacement item-- that's up to them if they do.

If the item has a very minor defect like a scratch or dent, or requires a small adjustment or the replacement of a small part, then you cannot claim a refund, but you can demand a reduction of the amount you paid, plus any expenses you may have incurred as a result of the product having the defect.

Do not accept a credit note-- you are entitled to receive money back. If you do accept one, you might not be able to find anything else in the shop you want. If you return goods you do not like or you have changed your mind about, the seller does not have to accept them back. In this case, if you are offered a credit note, you should take it. If there is no time limit stipulated, a credit note is valid for six years.



Guarantees may try to deny you the right of redress against the trader in the case of faulty goods, which you have by law. Ignore it. Many are only valid if you send the makers a card; others may even require you to send the goods back at your own expense and to pay the labour charges to correct faults which were created by the manufacturer in the first place.

There's nothing you can do to get redress against the manufacturer because your contract of sale was with the trader. Take the goods back to the trader before you try to use the guarantee. It might well not be the fault of the trader, but it is their responsibility.

#### Buying used goods on Hire Purchase:

If you buy something from someone and it turns out that they are still in the process of buying them on HP, then the HP company is within its rights to trace and recover those goods. You can claim in the county court against the person who sold them to you for the price and any expenses you incurred, but apart from that there's nowt you can do.

The only exception to this is motor vehicles. If you really don't know that a car is on HP when you buy it, the company can't get it back or claim the money off you. The NCCL Handbook recommends that if the HP company tries to bluff you into parting with your vehicle, just tell them you are now the owner by virtue of part III of the Hire Purchase Act 1964.

Well that's the end of that little section. There'll probably be more consumer rights next week, so stay tuned.

melita & the NCCL Handbook.

~~~~~

And here, as promised, is the bit about unsolicited goods, which plopped through the letter box too late to be included in last week's Poison Pen.....

JOIN THE FREEBIE BOOK CLUB

Hello people! Here's something naughty you can all do! Ever seen those ads in the glossy Sunday mags advertising things like "3 books for £1 each" and thought you'd like some but can't be bothered with all the "buy one book a quarter" bit? Well it's easy. Just get a friend to fill in the form with the books of your choice (or do it in a different style of handwriting) addressed to you, then sit back and wait.

When the books arrive, send an outraged letter to the club complaining about receiving unsolicited mail, and telling them that you're not going to pay all that money to send the things back, so they'd jolly well better come along and collect them themselves. Under the Unsolicited Goods and Services Acts of 1971 and 1975, they then have thirty days in which to collect them. Of course, it wouldn't be cricket to go away for thirty days or anything like that, but it's likely to cost them more than the value of the books to pay someone to collect them. Have fun! Reggie Bowles.

Ah! life just wouldn't be the same without the Jack Cook bit, would it?

A SNIPPET:::::

Regular readers of this journal will be well aware that Jack Cook is a man with a self-seeking nature whose only interest in life is the furthering of his political ambitions and the feathering of his own nest. In pursuance of this cause he has stooped to many things but surely there are some things to which he would not stoop--- using charitable occasions for his own advantage for example?

Well it seems not. Last Saturday the annual Hastings Charities Fair was held at the White Rock Pavilion. Many local charities had stalls. Now then, Mr Cook has a hand in the organisation of this event, so it was with considerable amusement that I heard the following story from a very reliable source.

Upon each stall was a small notice stating what charity was running it, but if one turned over said small notices, what did one find?-- "VOTE JACK COOK SDP". They were in fact old election material and the names of the charities had just been written on the back!

Naughty, naughty, naughty. Still, I suppose he had to do something with them after going to all the expense of having the wretched things printed and then coming last in the election.

Erik the Nameless Legend.

@@
@@
@ ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE IS A LEAFLET STEVE @
DISTRIBUTED LAST SUNDAY ON THE SOLIDARNOSC
MARCH IN LONDON.....
@@

MONEY MONEY MONEY:::::

As we said in last week's issue, all the sales of Poison Pen would go towards a defence fund being set up for those who were arrested on the @lternative CND march (see last week's ish).

We'd like to thank all those of you who contributed; donations amounted to around £6, which was boosted to £15 by the Q Group. At the time of typing we haven't received "Freedom" yet, which should contain the address to which the money is to be sent, but if we hear from them by the time we go to press, the address will be on the ads page. But don't worry-- all the money will get there in the end.

And don't forget we're broke too!

@@
HASTINGS FREE
PRESS

92 London Rd....St. Leonards-on-Sea....Ex.

messy.....unreliable.....slow.....

but we always get it done in the end.....
and it's

CHEAP!

NO TO BOSSES,
EAST AND WEST.

YES TO WORKERS
POWER.

For six months now the Polish working class has been subject to martial law. Thousands have been kidnapped and imprisoned by the state; striking workers have been murdered by the police; armed guards stand over those at work.

All this to protect the interests of the Communist party elite and their masters in the U.S.S.R.

In El Salvador the workers and peasants struggle against a fascist regime which even more viciously than the Polish government denies basic human rights (freedom of the press, of speech, of movement, of association) and keeps the vast majority of the population in abject poverty.

All this to protect the interests of the wealthy land-owners and military men who control that country and their masters in the U.S.A.

East or West what's the difference?

In every part of the planet the same conditions exist:

Small elites own and control the means of production and distribution. Members of these elites do nothing of any use yet live in luxury.

The workers who produce everything do so in lousy conditions and for little reward. They have little or no say in how industry is run.

Because production is for the profit of the few rather than the good of society as a whole, much useless junk is produced and the processes involved often injure the environment.

Governments spend millions on armaments while people are living in slums or have nowhere at all to live, while hospitals are falling to bits, while people haven't enough to eat, while there are a thousand and one useful things which could be done.

To maintain these conditions the governments have at their disposal all the machinery of repression to crush dissent: police, the law, prisons, the courts, the army etc etc.

(P.T.O.)

This is how things stand in every nation on earth. It is called Capitalism. Some nations claim to be "Socialist". In those countries, instead of there being lots of capitalists, there is just one: the State. Workers in these countries are still bossed around and exploited at work, still have no real say in how society is run, still face repression if they protest. The only difference is that the bosses are all in the Communist party and talk a lot of rubbish about "Socialism".

Two recent events show very well how little difference there is between East and West:

Recently a Russian anarchist, Vladimir Mikhailov, was arrested for putting up anti-state posters. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

During the time of the uprisings which took place in some English cities last summer, a young man named Simon Los was arrested in Nottingham for putting leaflets through people's doors. The leaflets were a reproduction of an editorial from the anarchist newspaper "Xtra!". Simon Los was charged with "incitement to riot". He was found guilty and sentenced to.....three years!

FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS.
DOWN WITH ALL GOVERNMENTS.
SMASH THE WAGES SYSTEM. ABOLISH MONEY.
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO OUR
NEEDS AND DESIRES.
VICTORY TO THE WORKERS, IN POLAND, IN EL SALVADOR,
IN BRITAIN--EVERYWHERE!
THE WORLD IS OURS-- LET'S TAKE IT.
ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE.

This leaflet has been produced by anarchists from Hastings. We can be contacted
c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

READ THE ANARCHIST PRESS:

"FREEDOM"-- 30p fortnightly from: Freedom Press, 84b Whitechapel High St., London E1.

"BLACK FLAG"-- 30p monthly from: Over the Water, Sanday, Orkney KW17 2BL.

"DIRECT ACTION"-- 15p monthly from: Direct Action Movement, 164/166 Corn Exchange
Buildings, Manchester.

"XTRA!"-- 30p from: Structureless Tyranny, BCM IT, London WC1 3XX.

"POISON PEN"-- Free weekly from: 92 London Rd., St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

ANARCHY @

Why do people give one funny looks when one walks along the road with two stiff fish in one's hand? I don't know either so let's get on with the job in hand and see what you make of this.....

I know that this will sound like a very personalised view of the subject/s but that doesn't seem to deter Mrs Thatcher or her colleagues in the H of C does it?

Oh do turn on the TV so we can see what other glorious atrocities have been done in the name of our just and upright country HA! Ooo wow, Mummy there's some chap in a British uniform pulping an Argy's head in with his size 10 standard issue jackboot. It's in colour too. A voice comes out of Daddy's study "NUKE THE FUCKERS I SAY!"

This view I have found quite common amongst certain families that I have been in contact with in my recent wanderings of Hastings. I noted that it was such families who were the first to scream from the rooftops when violence reared its head once again at some football match or sports meeting.

I also noted that it was such people who, when told about police brutality, would brush it aside with the excuse that whosoever was at the receiving end of such attacks 'must have done something to justify the treatment they got because the police wouldn't do that for nothing! You see son if yer go out on street dressed up like t'punk rockers or other long 'aired weirdos yer just asking for trouble. I don't know why yer don't get yer 'air cut, get a job on th'YOB scheme and dish yerself out with some nice proper clothes from C&A. Never mind all this pacifist demonstration crap, look after No.1 I say, think big. I mean the YOB scheme will prepare yer for a trade in later life (say yer 60's). It's not as bad as they make out, I mean yer can set yerself up as unskilled casual labour for t'rest of yer life etc."

All the while you're being fed such crap about duty to family and country you're wondering who was responsible for voting 635 loonies into the H of C and then it dawns on you that it was that generation commonly known to those of us well informed as 'responsible' adults/parents who we all love and respect don't we boys and girls. I mean after all they have had more experience of life than us. It was them after all who fought two world wars and shoved all the pacifists down the mines to work (the most dangerous job at the time due to conditions) just so Britain would stay great.

I long for the day that Britain gives up the arms race and rids itself of militia, that everyone decides to co-exist with their fellow humans instead of hating each other for the colour of skin or the clothes that you wear. The only thing Britain is great for in my eyes is the special development of a generation of people who hate the idea of peace worldwide or being denied the enjoyment of downing those supposedly below them and being able to exploit a few people on the way to the next mill £'s all under the good old name of free trade. Why can't we just build a huge arena with a transparent partition down the middle and put the lefties in one side, the right wing in the other and let them foam at the mouth until there's no more fight left in them. Could even spray them with angel dust so that they become peace loving loads of cabbages instead of war-lusting cabbages. In fact I reckon that if they put acid (LSB) in the water supply it would solve this country's problems for they would all realise how wonderful nature really was and would be so busy with observing it from a drug induced horizontal position they would totally forget or give up their foul old ways. Mrs Thatcher tripped out of her skull WAKOO! Excuse me while I go make an award-winning not to mention money-making film of this. We all have our weaknesses don't we?

Yours halfheartedly

H. Hughes.

P.S. sorry bout th spellink.

@@@ Oh 's OK....not sure I'm keen on the idea of Thatcher on acid-- might well make her even worse.....send the unemployed to the moon???? Interesting anyway...interesting.....

The Stand at Sarah's

Next :

melita.

Got any gigs, exhibitions, plays, ongoing situations etc etc you want advertising? Let us know then. If you've got a gig on, and you send us a free ticket, we promise you'll get a review. At least we bother to go to local things (when we can afford it) which is more than the Observer's self-styled reporters do.....

First off are the LEGENDARY MUTANTS who are playing at the Yelton Hotel this Saturday (19th). Dunno Who they're playing with or how much it is, but it's probably quite cheap. ANTI-SOCIAL and VERMIN will be doing the things they do at the Regent Hotel next Friday (25th). See back page for details. EXPANDIS and I3 AT MIDNIGHT will strut their funky staff (cough cough) on the Pier on 3rd July. Tickets are £1.25 in advance or £1.75 on the door from usual agents, or a 25p reduction on each of those on production of UB40 at the Unemployed Centre.....which, amazingly enough, brings us to an ad for.... Hastings Unemployed & Claimants Advice Centre:::::still open, in spite of all the dastardly attempts to stir things up by all the naughty people around. Open Mon-Fri 9-5:30 with expert advice on hair restoration, buying broken motorcycles and all aspects of claiming benefit. It's at the Upper Central Hall, Bank Buildings, Middle St. 428375.

Courses at the Centre: drawing classes Thurs a.m. at 10:30/ there's an archaeology course coming up soon but I forgot to make a note of when it is/lots of things turn up from time to time so get in touch with them if you want to know more. Also Hastings Women's Group meets every Wednesday morning at 10:30.

Oh dear what a bummer we'll miss the "Rite of Spring" on telly this Saturday 'cause we'll be up in London for an anarcho piss-up conference, of which you'll probably get a report next week. Dear me I've got a big lump of page to go with nothing with which to fill it(not that that usually puts me off). Oh poo-- when in doubt, reproduce a Grass lyric... I'm sure they won't sue for infringement of copyright.... This is from "Penis Envy".....

BERKERTEX BRIDE

The object unsoiled is packed ready and waiting
For the moment of truth in this spiritual mating.
The object unsoiled is packed ready and waiting
To be owned, to be cherished, to be fucked for the naming.
The public are shocked by the state of society,
But as for you, you're a breath of purity.
Well don't give me your morals, they're filth in my eyes,
You can pack them away with the rest of your lies.
Your painted mask of ugly perfection,
The ring on your finger, the sign of protection
Is the rape on page 3, the soldier's obsession,
How well you've been caught to support your oppression.
One god. One church. One husband. One wife.
Sordid sequences in brilliant life,
Supports and props and punctuation
To our flowing realities and realisations.
We're talking with words that have been used before
To describe us as goddesses, mothers and whores,
To describe us as women, describe us as men,
To set out the rules of this ludicrous game,
And it's played very carefully, a delicate balance,
A masculine/feminine perfect alliance.
Does the winner take all? What love in your grasping?
What vision is left and is anyone asking?
What vision is left and is anyone asking?
She's a Berkertex bride. Bride. Bride.

GRASS.

Good stuff that. Well, that looks like the lot for this week. Sorry 'bout typing errors but there's no-one around to proof it so I'll have to do it myself oh dear what a hard life. Typed by melita; thank to Erik & Betty Swuttox for printing.

PS happy birthday to Tuaranu!

27th June 12-00
CARNAGE + PARTIZANS - THE FRONT PAGE
IN CASE YOU CAN'T DECIPHER IT
SZ2: "COMPOSITE OF 3 P.P. PEOPLE" OK?

VOMIT PROMOTIONS



PRESENTS

A NITE OF ANTI-MUSIC OR

"MUSIC TO PUKE TO"

STARRING

ANTI-SOCIAL

FRIDAY

25th June

VERMIN

SUPPORT

Regent Court Regent Hotel

LOSS: £1.00 Advance £1.25 at door

25% reduction for CLAIMANTS